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by Barbara Broccoli
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BEST FOR JOBS

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Brown seeks ideas for memorial

'Candle in the Wind' tax will go to charity

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Government is giving up its claim to VAT on the sales of Elton John's reworked song *Candle in the Wind*, recorded last weekend to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Fund.

Gordon Brown told *The Times* last night that the tax, which could easily be more than £1 million, would be passed to the memorial fund.

"I have made this special decision so that people will know that all the proceeds from this record will go to the fund. That is in line with what the public would want to happen," the Chancellor said.

He also promised that the people would have their say over the national memorial being considered to mark the Princess's life and work.

Mr Brown, who was asked by the Prime Minister last weekend to chair a group to consider a memorial which would allow the causes with which the Princess was associated to be carried forward, said that thousands of people had offered their ideas and views. Last night he urged more to do so, inviting people to write to him in Downing Street or the Treasury. An e-mail address will also be available shortly.

Mr Brown is to meet Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, soon to ascertain the family's views and he will also take into account the opinions of the memorial fund trustees.

In his first remarks about the role given to him by Tony Blair after the Princess's death, Mr Brown said that his remit was to give whatever

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support and help he could to the fund trustees and to co-ordinate discussions about the memorial.

He said: "What has happened over the last ten days has shocked the country. But the predominant feeling among people — and rightly so — is that something good should emerge out of what has been an awful tragedy. There is a yearning — and I am not saying this in a political way — for a better, more compassionate, more humanitarian country. That is what she represented."

It is understood that the concept of a lasting memorial goes beyond the idea of a statue — although that will, of course, be considered. Mr Blair and Mr Brown appear to have in mind a permanent tribute that allows the Princess's humanitarian work and causes to progress. Mr Brown declined to be drawn, but some people clearly favour a national or even international foundation in her name.

Mr Brown said that his group — whose members will be named soon — should be seen as neither party political nor governmental; he would be consulting other parties. He also emphasised that the distribution of the fund was not for his group but for the

trust and he has been in touch with Anthony Julius, one of the trustees.

While Mr Brown could make no announcements about the lasting memorial, he said the decision on the Elton John record was one he could make immediately.

Elton John rewrote *Candle in the Wind*, originally a tribute to Marilyn Monroe, with his lyricist Bernie Taupin last week and sang it at the funeral service on Saturday. He made a studio recording soon afterwards and it will be released this weekend. It will almost certainly be the biggest selling record of all time, outstripping the 3.5 million copies of Band Aid's *Do They Know It's Christmas* in 1984. There are hopes that it could raise £10 million.

Mr Brown said: "I want people to know that when they buy that record all the proceeds are going to the trust fund and nothing is staying with the Government."

He also said that he had asked the Inland Revenue to publicise the fact that gift donations of £250 or more of the type made to the fund attracted tax relief.

The Government has also been asked to surrender its takings from a Saturday National Lottery draw to the Princess's fund. The lottery organiser Camelot has suggested that the entire profits from one week's draw should go to the fund, raising up to £30 million — although prize money, which accounts for 50p of every ticket sold, would

Continued on page 2, col



Moorehouse attacking Piras yesterday: "Why should an Italian get away with this?"



Punch for tribute thief

By RICHARD DUCE

AN Italian tourist was punched in the face outside court yesterday after he was fined for stealing a child's teddy bear left outside St James's Palace in tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Fabio Piras, 20, had earlier been jailed for seven days for a "mean and despicable" crime but was then called back into court to have a lesser sentence imposed.

Lorraine Morgan, the Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate told Piras, a Sardinian, that she had decided the sentence was "not correct" and imposed a £100 fine instead.

As Piras emerged from the court he was punched by Gerry Moorehouse, 43, from northwest London who said

later: "She was the queen of everybody's hearts. Why should an Italian get away with this? It is disgusting."

His wife, Elizabeth, admitted that her husband, who was recently diagnosed as having terminal cancer, had been drinking but said: "I think he has been awfully upset about Diana."

Piras, from Sardinia, took the teddy and condolence card on Tuesday, his twentieth birthday, as he mingled with the crowds. The bear, left by a girl called Regina, carried the message "Diana, we love you."

Helen Thomas, for the prosecution, said that a man told a police officer that he had seen Piras take the bear. When he

was stopped Piras said he had taken it for his girlfriend but later went on to claim that a friend had stolen the bear.

Scotland Yard said it would not be investigating the attack because no complaint had been made.

Last night Piras's mother, Aida, said from her home in Sardinia: "It's a terrible thing, something I can't even begin to understand. I haven't heard from him and he's going to be in trouble when he comes home. I'm going to be having some very hard words for him. You shouldn't even steal a pin."

"We Sardinian people are poor but honest. Stealing the things of others — I've never heard of such a thing."

Crash driver had taken two drugs

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE driver of the car in which the Princess died was taking chronic alcoholism, Paris investigators said yesterday.

The findings raise further questions about how a man with an apparent history of alcohol abuse, who had drunk the equivalent of a bottle and a half of wine, was allowed to drive by his employers at the Paris Ritz, which is owned by Mohamed Al Fayed.

Tests on the body of Henri Paul not only confirmed that he was three times over the French legal alcohol limit for driving, but also found traces of the anti-depressant drug Prozac and smaller amounts of diazepam, a sedative used in the treatment of treating alcoholics. Both can affect driving ability.

Tiaproline hydrochloride, used in the drugs Equilibrium, Tiapridal and Tiapride Pan-

pharma, is prescribed both to combat alcoholic depression and to alleviate side-effects associated with drink such as agitation, twitching and shaking.

A senior neurologist in London said that the drug was also used to combat involuntary violent muscular movements which sometimes afflict people who have used anti-depressants for a number of years.

M Paul's doctor in his home town of Lorient had said immediately after the accident that he had not seen his patient for more than a year and was not aware that he had a drink problem.

M Paul's body has now been released to his family and preparations were being made yesterday for his funeral in Lorient, which was postponed from last Saturday pending the latest tests.

Parents are given a sneak's hotline

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS will be encouraged to use a telephone hotline to report bad teaching to the Government's new task force on standards. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Blunkett told *The Times* he wanted parents to bypass local education authorities and inform his department's unit directly when schools were not up to scratch or did not follow education policy. For example, he said, parents should complain if teachers refused

to abandon mixed ability teaching, or failed to use the traditional phonics method of teaching literacy.

Callers would, initially, be advised on how to approach the school to challenge its practices. But inspectors or advisors would then intervene if problems persisted.

Last night Doug McAvoy, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Mr Blunkett's approach will simply depress teachers."

between union leaders and employers over three sticking points — the chairmanship of the committee for proposing the new measures, its remit and timetable. Agreement was reached at the TUC in Brighton yesterday and Acs agreed to chair the committee.

Free books: W H Smith announced yesterday that it will be providing half a million free books worth more than £1.5 million to 400 primary schools across the country. Jeremy Hardie, the chairman of W H Smith, said: "We will monitor the reading habits of the children in these schools over time to see if it makes a difference."

The Government is facing resistance from classroom unions over its proposed "fast track" dismissal for incompetent teachers. Acs, the arbitration service, was called in to try and find agreement

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Two-day week earns Clarke £120,000 a year salary

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

KENNETH CLARKE, the former Chancellor, yesterday landed a plum boardroom job paying £120,000-a-year for a two-day week.

His appointment as chairman of UniChem, the chemists, takes his total annual earnings to £181,860 — more than twice the £87,951 he received for controlling the nation's finances.

But Mr Clarke, 57, was quick to deny that he was bowing out of frontline politics, saying he would play an "active role" on the national stage. Friends said that he had not abandoned his ambition to lead the Tory party.

A former health secretary, Mr Clarke takes charge of a company that runs the rapidly expanding Moss chain of corner-shop chemists and is a big wholesale supplier of drugs to the health service, controlling about a third of the British wholesale drugs market. Earlier this year it lost a bruising £685 million bid battle to Gehe, a German company, for rival chain Lloyds Chemists.

He takes over as chairman from Lord Rippon, another strongly pro-European former Conservative Minister, who died earlier this year.

Mr Clarke's decision to join unglamorous UniChem, valued at under £500 million and not a FTSE 100 company, surprised some in the City. Past Chancellors have generally found little trouble in moving straight from No 11 to senior positions at blue chip banks and financial services companies. Lord Lawson of Blaby took a post on the board at Barclays in 1990, while Norman Lamont sits on the board at Jupiter Asset Management Investment Trust.

But Mr Clarke has made

clear that he wants to take on only a limited number of business posts for extra financial support while he devotes the bulk of his energies to his political career.

He is paid £43,860 a year as Conservative MP for Rushcliffe in Nottingham and already receives £18,000 a year for devoting one day a month to a non-executive position on the board of the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust.

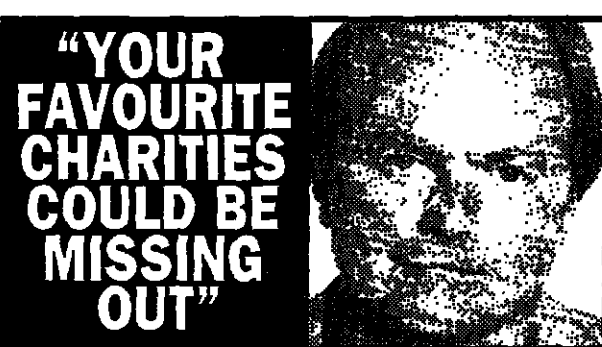
He may also feel more at home with UniChem than in the more rarified atmosphere of many City boardrooms; the company started life as a co-operative before joining the stock market in 1980.

The move to UniChem may prompt some raised eyebrows in Mr Clarke's constituency, Boots, the country's biggest chemist chain and Nottingham's largest employer, is based in a neighbouring constituency. However, Boots refused to comment on the appointment yesterday, except to say that it never appoints politicians to its board.

Jeff Harris, chief executive of UniChem, said the company was delighted that Mr Clarke had accepted its offer and said that he had already begun to immerse himself in the business, attending his first board meeting on Tuesday.

UniChem is keen to expand into Europe and believes that Mr Clarke's impeccable pro-European credentials will provide a major boost. "We want to move from being a strong UK player to a substantial European player and Mr Clarke, with his vast wealth of experience and contacts, will help to develop strategy," Mr Harris said.

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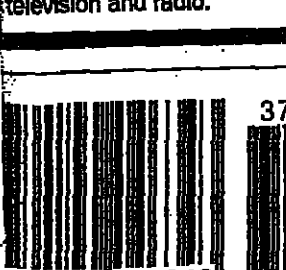
In the new 52-page arts and books section, **Damon Albarn** of Blur confesses: 'We spent three years scheming how to get into the papers, then the next five trying to stay out of them.'

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The majority that will be far from simple

PETER RIDDELL

A SIMPLE majority of those voting will be enough for the supporters of Scottish devolution to declare victory in today's referendum. But it will not necessarily be enough to determine what Tony Blair has called "the settled will of the Scottish people" to give the changes the necessary authority and legitimacy.

Nothing more than a simple majority is required legally: indeed, the referendum is itself merely advisory, before Parliament considers the detailed legislation setting up a Scottish parliament during this winter. This week's polls all suggest, however, that there will be a clear majority in favour of the principle of a Scottish parliament — of 63 to 25 per cent according to the ICM poll in *The Scotsman*, of 61 to 20 per cent in the System Three poll for the

Herald and of 67 to 22 per cent according to the MORI poll for Scottish television.

There are two caveats — first, there are still between 10 and 20 per cent don't know and, second, over the turnout. Any shift by the don't knows is unlikely to affect the broad margin of victory. The turnout is a less certain and more significant factor. The legitimacy of even a clear-cut win would be undermined if, say, fewer than half of the people voted — meaning that perhaps only a third of those eligible to vote had supported devolution.

This point arises more strongly over the second question — whether the parliament should have tax-varying powers. The likely margin there may be much narrower, 48 to 40 per cent in favour (ICM); 45-31 in favour (System Three) and 51-32 in favour (MORI). Moreover, the mar-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

gin has narrowed during the campaign. The polls suggest that turnout should be reasonably high. The proportion saying that they are certain to vote has risen to about two thirds, and up to three quarters in one poll. This suggests that turnout today will be higher than the nearly 64 per cent in the 1979 referendum in Scotland.

John Currie, of Strathclyde University, estimated in *The Scotsman* yesterday that, if turnout was the same as in 1979, the likely 72-28 per cent margin among those saying they are certain to vote would mean that 45 per cent of the registered electorate had backed devolution. This is a critical figure for the Scots. In 1979, a threshold had been inserted in the devolution legislation

(against the wishes of the Callaghan Government) requiring not only a simple majority but also the support of 40 per cent of those entitled to vote. On that basis, the Scots voted by 51.6 to 48.4 per cent in favour of devolution, but this amounted to only 33 per cent of the registered electorate in favour, well below the legal threshold. The 40 per cent threshold should be passed this time on the first question of the creation of a Scottish parliament, but it is highly unlikely to be exceeded on the second, tax question.

The 1979 experience explains why the Labour leadership, particularly in Scotland, was so determined to resist the inclusion of a formal threshold this time, and defeated amendments to that effect. Indeed,

while there is a theoretical attraction in requiring an extra hurdle for introducing constitutional changes, the 40 per cent threshold was flawed because of the weaknesses of the electoral register.

In 1979, the figures could be adjusted legally, for those not entitled to vote, such as those who had died or been sent to prison, since the register was compiled. But there was no such adjustment for those unable to vote for reasons such as being in hospital, or at home disabled, or having moved house. In theory, many could get a postal vote or a proxy vote, but only a minority do. This is apart from the sizeable errors in the register, of at least six per cent, in its compilation anyway.

The overall effect is in practice to raise the effective threshold of those voting in favour of any constitutional change because of the absent

voters. This led Professor Vernon Bogdanor, a leading authority on referendums, to conclude that "the requirement of a qualified majority (or threshold) cannot be completely fair unless the efficiency of the register is improved."

Nevertheless, other countries using referendums regularly, as Britain seems likely to do, do in some cases impose extra thresholds. In Italy, popular initiatives can succeed only if turnout is more than 50 per cent. However, a recent report from the Constitution Unit and the Electoral Reform Society concluded that as long as a referendum remained advisory, as in this case, Parliament "would certainly take the result and the margin of support into account". It would be very hard to proceed with as big a change as devolution if turnout was low and the margin in favour was narrow.

ANDREW MILLIGAN

Trust yourselves, Blair urges Scots

By NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR spearheaded a final push for a double yes vote in today's devolution referendum when he urged the people of Scotland to have the confidence to vote for a "new and modern settlement".

In a series of television interviews in Downing Street, the Prime Minister called for a resounding endorsement to the first Scottish Parliament in nearly three centuries.

Asked what his message was to the Scottish people on the eve of today's historic poll, an upbeat Mr Blair said: "To trust yourselves, to have confidence in their future and to vote for a new and modern settlement for Scotland that allows Scottish people to take decisions closer to them, closer to their priorities."

The Prime Minister's intervention on the final day of campaigning came as no campaigners all but conceded defeat on the setting up of a Scottish Parliament. An ICM opinion poll in yesterday's *Scotsman* found that 63 per cent of voters said they would vote for the body, although only 48 per cent said the body should have tax-varying powers.

Mr Blair sought to allay fears over the "tartan tax" by insisting that Labour would not use the proposed tax-varying powers within the lifetime of the current Westminster Parliament. He said it was "right as a matter of principle" that a Scottish Parliament should have the power to increase or decrease the basic rate of income tax set by Westminster by 3p. But he added that that voters "have

THE VOTE

POLLING opens at 7am and closes at 10pm. Two ballot papers, one white and one green, will contain the two referendum questions.

The white paper will ask whether voters agree or do not agree that there should be a Scottish parliament. The green paper will ask whether they agree or do not agree that such a parliament should have tax-varying powers.

The bulk of results are due to arrive between 1.30am and 3am. A turnout of around 68 per cent has been forecast.

The referendum on Scottish devolution in 1979 had a turnout of 65 per cent; 51.6 per cent of those who voted said yes and 48.4 per cent said no to a Scottish parliament.

The Callaghan Government had declared that

40 per cent of the total electorate had to vote "yes" for the decision to be carried. But the yes vote constituted 32.9 per cent of the electorate. This time there is no target.

Early indications of the result will come from the five areas that rejected devolution last time, suspecting that a Scottish parliament would be dominated by the main population centres of Glasgow and Edinburgh. Those areas are Orkney (result due 1.30am), Dumfries and Galloway (2am), Shetland (3am), Scottish Borders (3.30am) and the Highlands (4.30am).

Although recent opinion polls have forecast a resounding "yes" vote for a Scottish parliament, the margin is narrower on the question on tax-varying powers.

assurances from the Labour Party on tax-varying powers that we will not raise income tax for five years."

Mr Blair dismissed suggestions that the poll should have been postponed after the week-long halt to campaigning in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. He said: "These arguments [about devolution] have been going on for a very long time. They dominated a large part of the election campaign."

The Prime Minister's confidence was matched in Scotland by the leaders of Scotland's three Parliamentary parties who joined together

at the end of the three-week campaign — which was interrupted for one week — to call for a strong Yes vote. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, and Jim Wallace, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, were in buoyant mood as they cut a large cake decorated in the blue and white of the saltire. Mr Dewar joked that it was his sixth referendum campaign cake as Mr Salmond said: "I didn't know we were married."

Despite their confidence Mr Dewar highlighted fears in the Yes camp of a low turnout

when he made an impassioned plea to the electorate not to waste their vote. Sitting in front of large colourful Yes posters in an Edinburgh art gallery, Mr Dewar said: "We must have a good turnout. My message and my appeal to the people of Scotland is to turn out and to turn out in large numbers and to make your voices heard."

Mr Dewar then used the Scottish phrase for a jam sandwich to warn pro-devolutionists of the danger of not voting. Mr Dewar added: "The terrible disaster would be if people were to wake up on Friday morning and find that someone had 'stolen their jelly piece'. What I would say to the people of Scotland now is no half measures, do the best for Scotland, be confident and go for it."

His strident tones compared with a sombre mood in the No camp. Donald Findlay, the chairman of the Think Twice campaign, conceded that people were likely to vote for a Scottish Parliament, but said there was "all to play for" on the tax question. At an Edinburgh press conference Mr Findlay criticised the media for failing to provide balanced coverage of the campaign and said that a No vote had been portrayed as unpatriotic.

Conservatives tried to rally support for a No vote last night with a rally at the Murrayfield rugby stadium in Edinburgh.

In his first intervention of the campaign Sir Malcolm Rifkind, the former Foreign Secretary who lost his Edinburgh Pentlands seat at the election, told the rally that a Scottish Parliament would lead to a "generation of constitutional instability".



A 13ft statue of William "Braveheart" Wallace is being unveiled in Stirling on the 700th anniversary of his victory over the English at the battle of Stirling Bridge

NEWS IN BRIEF

Truancy officer jailed for sex abuse

A school truancy officer was jailed for 18 years yesterday for abusing boys as young as nine over a 20-year period.

Dennis Leckey, 51, who had worked for Tameside and Rochdale councils, would befriend children and secure the trust of their families before indecently assaulting them, Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, was told.

Leckey, of Ashton-under-Lyne, was found guilty of 15 charges of indecent assault and three of serious sexual assault against boys.

Air escape

The crew of a police helicopter narrowly escaped death when an RAF training plane brushed into them at 500ft. The helicopter pilot managed to make an emergency landing in a field near Woakey Hole near Cheddar, Somerset. The Ministry of Defence has begun an inquiry.

Lake decision

A 10mph limit on Windermere in the Lake District — in effect outlawing speed boats, water skiing and wet bikes — may be reset by the Government after its decision not to defend at November's judicial review a 1996 decision to lift the limit by John Gummer, then Environment Secretary.

Jury trial study

Ministers are to look again at a plan to scrap a defendant's right to jury trial in a wide range of cases, affecting thousands of suspects. The Lord Chancellor's Department said the Government would examine the proposal again because consultation had indicated some support for the idea.

'Safe' meat

The Government is to publish results of abattoir hygiene inspections from January to help people to identify the "safest" meat available. Retailers will be able to put information about suppliers' standards on packaging and customers are expected to become familiar with high-ranking products.

Racist faces jail

A race hate activist who helped terrorise the mother of boxer Frank Bruno after a Nazi magazine published her address faces jail. Robin Grey, a lorry driver of Feltham, Middlesex, was convicted at Southwark Crown Court of possessing threatening, abusive and insulting material.

Girls rethink

The Boys' Brigade is considering whether girls can join its ranks. Parents are seeking legal advice after their daughters were admitted to the Wordsley brigade, West Midlands, when their own brigade closed down, and then were told they could not attend after a ruling by national headquarters.

Candle in the Wind tax

Continued from page 1
be paid out as usual. David Rigg, Camelot's director of communications, said the Treasury, which takes 12 per cent of all sales, would be the biggest loser. He was sure that lottery retailers would forgo their commission for a week.

The company has put the idea to Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, but it would require secondary legislation and a department spokesman said: "There are a number of other charities putting in applications for lottery money."

Camelot's proposal came as the fund announced that it had a team of 15 people

ELTON JOHN



Elton John's tax-free disc

working 12 hours a day to cope with the deluge of postal donations.

Simon Sadler, of the accountancy firm Coopers and Lybrand, which is processing

the mail, said that most donations were worth £5 to £10. "We are handling 3,500 cheques a day plus another thousand letters with cash."

The jeweller Asprey was responsible for the largest single gift so far, worth £3 million. The company said that the Princess had formed a close relationship with staff over the years and was in the Old Bond Street shop two days before her death. She is believed to have bought a cigar cutter for Dodi Fayed.

Fulham Football Club, which is owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, raised £75,000 for the fund at its match against Plymouth on Tuesday.

BBC graphic features Ben Nevis

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

PETER SNOW and the BBC have conjured up a new set of graphics to chart Scotland's progress towards devolution as the referendum results come in during the night.

The programme, *Scotland Decides*, will come live from BBC Scotland in Glasgow and Edinburgh and will be broadcast nationwide on BBC1 from 11.20pm until around 4.30am when the last declaration is expected.

The image of Ben Nevis has been chosen to convey "the mountain that Scots will have to climb if they are to gain a 'Yes' vote" to the first question and realise the nation's 290-year-old dream to establish a Scottish Parliament.

A virtual reality Parliament will be displayed. It will slowly begin to fill up

with MSPs, members of a Scottish Parliament, as the votes are declared. A Treasury safe appears within the building, the door of which will begin to open if Scots vote "Yes" to the second question on tax-varying powers.

The question on Peter Snow's lips will be: "Will Scots vote to open up the new Parliament and will they unlock the Treasury as well?" According to the BBC, the nightmare scenario for the graphics department will be a "No, Yes" vote. "We've not yet worked out if we will be able to break into a locked Parliament building round the back door and open the safe," a spokesman quipped.

Kirsty Wark will join Peter Snow to present the programme and Anne MacKenzie will analyse results and seek

reaction from politicians from the main counting centre in Edinburgh's International Conference Centre.

Public reaction will be relayed from seven areas around Scotland as well as four areas in the rest of the UK, Cornwall, Wales, London and Newcastle.

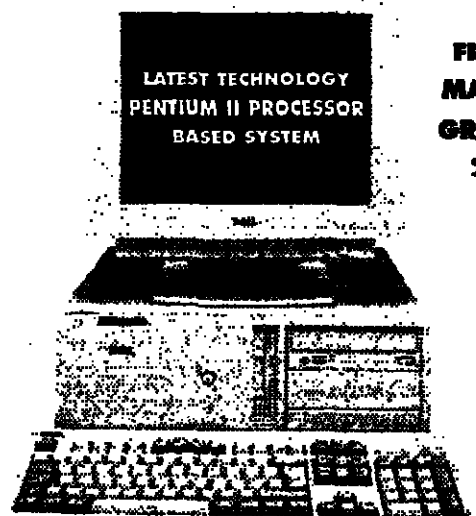
Two other live television results programmes, also called *Scotland Decides*, will be broadcast on Channel 4 (from 12.35am to 2.35am) and Scottish and Grampian TV (11.30pm to 4am). Channel 5 will run updates in its news bulletins and will broadcast live from Edinburgh in 5 News Early on Friday morning from 6am to 7.30am.

Radio Four will join Radio Scotland from 11pm onwards on Thursday night with a live results programme.

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Man, 80, killed by punch while star-gazing

Second World War veteran's attacker was beaten up after unprovoked attack, Lin Jenkins reports

A MAN aged 80 died yesterday after being beaten up as he was studying the night sky.

Michael Austin, 80, who was a Second World War veteran, died yesterday after the attack on Monday night. Police described it as "an appalling, brutal assault on an innocent pensioner".

As a woman went to Mr Austin's aid as he lay on the pavement, he told her not to tell his wife, Betty, as she would "only worry about me". Mrs Austin had gone back to their permanent mobile home near Ringwood, Hampshire. The assailant ran off and took refuge in a nearby house, but was himself attacked by a gang of people after telling them what he had done. Police searched the area for him, but as they did so other officers answered a call to a disturbance in a nearby field and found the man lying injured, having been badly beaten by the gang.

Mr Austin was taken to Royal Bournemouth General Hospital after the 10pm attack and later transferred to the intensive care unit at Poole General Hospital, where he died. It is understood that he died of brain damage as a result of a single heavy blow to the centre of his face because of the porosity of bone in a man of his age.

His attacker, a 21-year-old local man, received treatment at Poole for facial injuries and was allowed home. He was arrested by police yesterday morning and held for ques-

tioning at Lyndhurst police station. Witnesses said Mr Austin's assailant had broken off from the row with his girlfriend to shout abuse at the pensioner, who had made no attempt to intervene, before hitting him in the face.

Sarah Jukhtental, 23, was in the White Hart Inn when she heard the disturbance and went out to look. By then Mr Austin had been attacked. "This old man was sitting on the ground with thick blood covering the whole of his face," she said. "There was blood all down his clothes and over his binoculars which were still on a piece of string around his neck."

She ran to him. "It was an extremely distressing sight. He looked up at me and said, 'Don't tell Betty, my wife, she will only worry. I tried to comfort him and he said to me, 'All I was trying to do was look up at the stars. I feel so sorry for his wife. It is awful

"I tried to comfort him and he said to me 'All I was trying to do was look up at the stars'. It is awful he died for no reason?"

that he has died for no reason whatsoever."

Jane Jackman, a neighbour of the couple, said Mrs Austin had been distraught when she told her that her husband had died. "She knocked on my door and told me Michael had passed away in hospital. She said they had been looking at the stars together through Michael's binoculars mo-

ments before it happened. "They had lived here for many, many years. They loved the peace and quiet. Michael would comment on the tranquility." She said the couple had no children and loved playing with her grandchildren when they came to visit.

"He was a lovely, caring, gentle man," she said. Her husband, Michael, 60, a postman said: "Everyone is in a state of shock. Michael was a former Guards captain. He was well over 6ft tall and sturdy built. It's shocking to think of someone who was a decent, honest person ending up dying like that."

Mr Austin served as a conscript in the Army during the Second World War and saw active service, being demobbed as a captain. He worked in various jobs, particularly in the building industry as a site foreman. He had been retired for many years.

Ron Turl, 63, who manages the mobile home park where the couple lived, said that Mr Austin was a boxing instructor in the Army and was still a very fit man. "He looked after himself. He was a good neighbour who got on with everyone. Michael would always help anyone out and make time to share a joke and laugh."

"He told me was going out after dark to try and identify some mysterious lights he and his wife had seen over the New Forest. All the residents here are shocked and upset," he said.

Detective Chief Inspector Bob Golding said: "This is utterly appalling, utterly unacceptable behaviour. Where this attack happened is a very safe area, almost crime free. At the time he was attacked he was standing looking at the stars. Our sympathies go out to his wife."

A post mortem examination was being carried out yesterday afternoon.



Celebrating together, Sir Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan yesterday. "Comedy is getting a bit cruel, which is sad," said Sir Harry

Goon fishing for kinder comedy



Original Goons: from left, Secombe, Michael Bentine, Peter Sellers and Milligan

THE surviving Goons met to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the last Goon Show recording yesterday, and offered a few thoughts on today's comedians.

Sir Harry Secombe, 76, and a frail-looking Spike Milligan, 79, met in London to joke about the cult radio series which inspired generations of British comedy, from Monty Python to Paul Merton. But Sir Harry had serious misgivings about modern trends.

"Comedy is getting a bit cruel, which is sad," he said. "It seems to feature jokes about cripples and terminal illness, which we would not have joked about. I won't name names, but that seems to be the trend. We used to

get letters from ladies in Cheltenham after we cracked some army jokes. But things are different, and you have to provide what your audience wants."

The Goons became a national institution despite opposition from some BBC executives. Characters such as Bluebottle, Major Denis Bloodnok and Henry Crun became household names. Their first show was broadcast in 1951 and their last was made in 1972, to celebrate the BBC's 50th anniversary. "People read shades of Dylan Thomas into it but it was just as having a ball, using wonderful scripts by Spike," said Sir Harry.

Diary, page 20

Former rugby international cleared of indecent assault

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE former England rugby international John Hall was yesterday cleared of indecently assaulting a student.

Mr Hall, 35, met the 24-year-old trainee physical education teacher while celebrating a victory by his team Bath, with England team-mates Jeremy Guscott, Ben Clarke, Steve Ojomoh and Adebayo Adebayo in December.

Mr Hall, who was capped 22 times for England and was then manager of Bath RFC, signed loudly when the foreman of the jury announced the unanimous verdict. The woman had claimed he shoved a hand down the back of her trousers and grasped her bottom when she refused to kiss him.

Mr Hall, 35, was cleared by a jury of seven women and five men at Bristol Crown Court at the end of a two-day trial. He was awarded his costs. Mr Hall, who recently married, said after the verdict: "I have been waiting for this since December when I was first confronted by these allegations. "While this verdict helps me

for the future, it does little to repair the hurt and distress I have been caused by the allegations. I understand the public interest and the media attention and I thank my friends and my family for their support."

Mr Hall, of Slaughterford, Wiltshire, told the court he was "dumbfounded" when the allegation was first made. He had chatted to the woman after she pinched his bottom while he stood at the wine bar in Bath. But he was "shocked"



Hall: only evidence against him was the woman's word

when she kissed him and he then rejected her advances.

Summing up, defence counsel Richard Smith told the jury that the woman, who broke down several times in the witness box, was an emotional person who may have felt guilty about her impulsive behaviour in kissing him. He pointed to inconsistencies in her subsequent accounts of the incident and said it was not for Mr Hall to try to explain why she had made the allegation.

Mr Smith said: "Accusa-

tions of this kind are made by people, female and male, inexcusably and inexplicably, time and time again. Once you have made a false complaint against a person it is extremely difficult to change it."

"She found herself facing a man she knew from television. At that moment she chooses to kiss him. There was a moment's weakness which she succumbed to. Perhaps she was disappointed in her conduct, and so the allegation."

He pointed out that the black trousers she was wearing were not elasticated and yet the woman said Mr Hall had got his entire hand inside without damaging the zip.

Judge Lester Boothman told the jury that there was no evidence against Mr Hall other than the word of the girl. No one in the crowded bar had come forward to say they had seen the incident and there was no physical evidence.

He said that the jury would have to take into consideration Mr Hall's good character and the fact that he had denied the allegations consistently.

Fox attacks spark rabies fear

The hunt is on for animal that is biting holidaymakers in a Cornish village, reports Stephen Farrell

FOUR people have been injected against rabies and a fifth is being sought by police after tourists and locals were bitten by a rogue fox still at large in a Cornish fishing village.

A seven-man team from the Ministry of Agriculture, RSPCA and local council, armed with tranquilliser guns and nets, is hunting the animal, which disappeared near the attacks in Mousehole, near Penzance, on Sunday and Monday.

Doctors and wildlife experts do not believe the fox has rabies but is more likely to be hungry after being tamed then abandoned. The team failed to find the fox on Tuesday night and renewed their efforts yesterday.

Police appealed for a German tourist named Franklin to report for medical treat-

ment after a member of his family was bitten while touring Cornwall. Dr Elizabeth White, a consultant in communicable disease control for Cornwall, said the other bites gave no cause for concern.

The wounds were merely small punctures, reducing the likelihood of rabies. Witnesses saw no evidence of foaming at the mouth or odd behaviour except for the animal's remarkable lack of wariness around humans.

Dr White said: "Vets think the animal is a semi-tame fox and has escaped from someone who kept it as a pet."

Tim Clark, 17, was bitten

after he went into Harbour View Gift Shop at 8.30pm on Sunday to warn the shopkeeper he had seen a fox entering her store.

"As I was telling her, I looked down and it was beside me," he said. "I went to the door to let it out. At first it didn't look like it was going to do anything but then it got scared by something and bit me on the right shin. Its teeth went right through the skin. I didn't think much of it at first but then I got a bit shaky when I thought about rabies."

Adrian Bardgett, 29, a car park attendant, saw the fox wander into Mousehole from

the fields above the village on Monday night, then felt something brush against his leg outside the chip shop at 6pm.

"I thought it was a cat but looked down and it was sniffing my leg. I knew it had already bitten two people so I lifted my leg and it bit my plimsoll. Luckily it didn't break the skin," he said.

"No one has ever seen a fox wandering around as nonchalantly as this one. It was sitting on the rocks near North Quay and holidaymakers were following it taking pictures. It just didn't seem as sharp and wary as foxes usually are."

An RSPCA spokeswoman said: "This is exceptional. There are a lot of urban foxes but even they generally avoid people and will usually think twice about taking on a cat, let alone a human."



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Public role for driving force behind minister

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE millionaire nightclub owner who provided Peter Mandelson with a chauffeur-driven car during the election campaign has been given a government role to improve public services.

James Palumbo, the Old Etonian son of the former Arts Council chairman Lord Palumbo, runs a £20 million-a-year leisure business centred on his South London club the Ministry of Sound. He has been appointed to the team of Citizen's Charter judges who decide Charter Mark awards — the gold standard for the public sector.

It is a small job for the man billed as Labour's secret weapon but he will attempt to bring new teeth to the Citizen's Charter, which was considered a gimmick under John Major's Government.

Mr Palumbo, who took his father to court claiming that



Mandelson: car loan

he was mismanaging the family trust fund, and has not spoken to him since, will have no difficulty challenging red tape, waste and inefficiency.

Mr Palumbo was not available to discuss his new role yesterday but he will soon become familiar with late trains, hospital waiting lists,

school league tables and the plodding courts system.

Mr Palumbo is also prone to impulsive behaviour — he apparently lent Mr Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, a £20,000 Rover after knowing him for a short time. He explained later: "You know how you just meet someone and you just click. I thought it was just absurd that someone like him should have to drive himself. It seemed a bit mad, dangerous."

A Cabinet Office spokesman made clear yesterday that there was no connection with the gift and the new unpaid part-time post.

At 34 Mr Palumbo is the youngest member of the team and has been brought in to make public services more relevant to young people. Government sources said he had excellent business experience and was in touch with the



James Palumbo at his South London nightclub, the Ministry of Sound. He will have no difficulty challenging red tape, waste and inefficiency.

needs and requirements of young people. Mr Palumbo has also launched a record label, a clothing company, a shop in Covent Garden and a mail-order catalogue business. He plans a new magazine later this year.

Ministers are keen to make the charter programme more

dynamic and geared to consumers. They want the opinions of people from all walks of life to influence standards of public services, from hospitals and schools to museums and local councils.

Mr Palumbo is one of four new people on the Charter taskforce. The others are Rod-

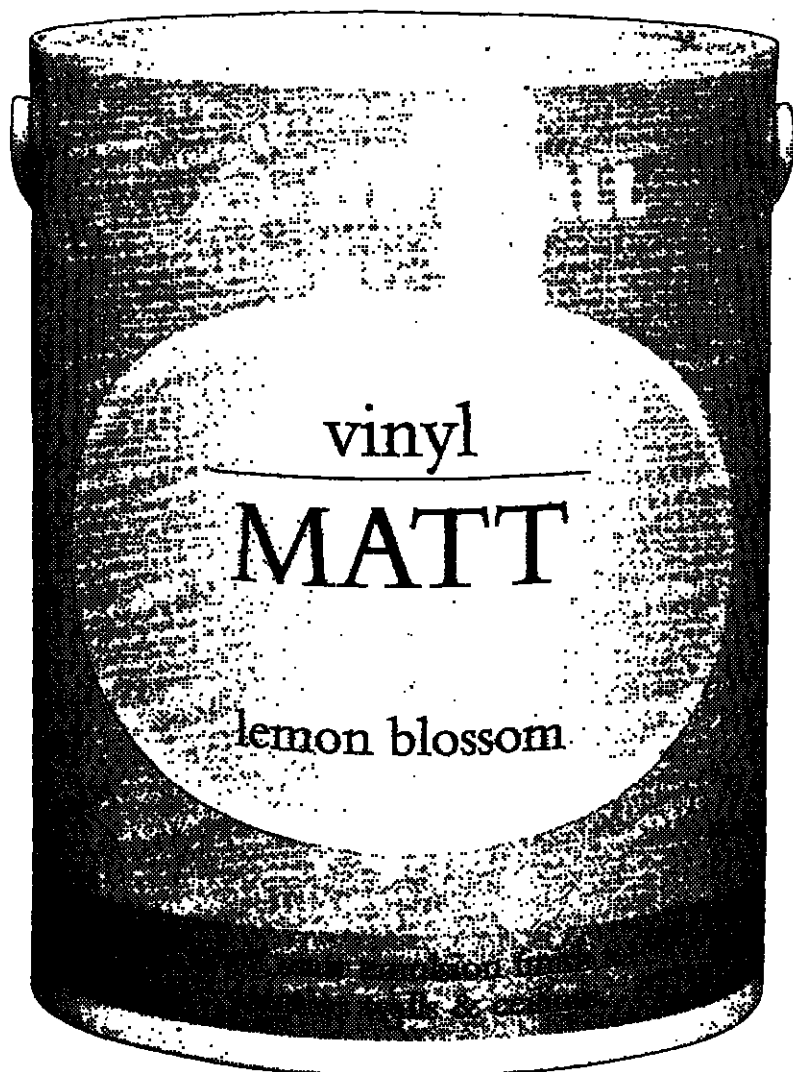
ney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison; Stephen Locke, director of research at Andersen Consulting; and Peter Housden, chief executive of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Peter Kilfoyle, junior Public Services Minister, said yesterday: "The widening of the

panel marks a new beginning for Charter Mark." They will join the team chaired by Baroness Perry of Southwark, president of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, and former chief inspector of schools who replaced Lord Blyth of Rowington, chairman of Boots, who left at the election.

The other members are Anne Galbraith, chairman of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle; Angela Heylin, chairman of Charles Barker; Neil Johnson, chief executive and general secretary of the RAC; and Baroness Wilcox, former chairman of the National Consumer Council.

September's Big Deals.



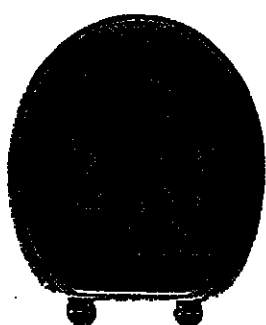
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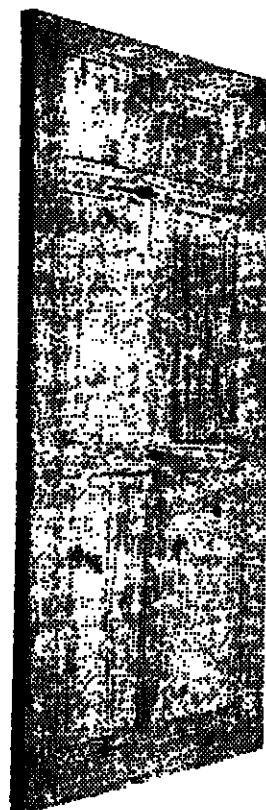
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Trimble takes Blair to task over 'IRA concessions'

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, protested to the Prime Minister yesterday about the string of concessions he says the Government has made to Sinn Féin in recent weeks while ignoring Unionist fears.

The latest of those perceived concessions came on Tuesday when the United States suspended deportation proceedings against six former IRA convicts. Washington said that the move was designed to "advance the peace process", but Unionists said that it would have the opposite effect by making it harder for them to join the peace negotiations starting on Monday.

Today a BBC Northern Ireland poll will show that just over half the Unionists questioned favour face-to-face talks with Sinn Féin, with the rest opposed.

Mr Trimble entered his

meeting at Downing Street yesterday hoping for a positive response to ten confidence-building measures that he had proposed to Tony Blair. He emerged 75 minutes later giving no hint that he had received one.

Mr Trimble said he had emphasised the need for Mr Blair to counter "a tidal wave of republican triumphalism stoked up by the concessions that have been offered". Reg Empey, an Ulster Unionist official who accompanied him, said they had told the Prime Minister that there had been "not a single solitary measure to build confidence on the Unionist side and this situation was intolerable".

The Unionists' demands include an unequivocal promise by Mr Blair that no constitutional change can happen in Northern Ireland without a majority of its people agreeing; a British and Irish requirement that IRA disarmament take place during the negotiations; the replacement of certain Northern Ireland Office officials considered too pro-nationalist; a grand committee at Westminster to consider Northern Ireland legislation; the maintenance of strong police and security forces; and the exemption of legally held weapons in Northern Ireland from the post-Dunblane ban.

Washington's deportation announcement particularly incensed the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party and Progressive Unionist Party, whose presence at the talks is almost as critical as that of the Ulster Unionist Party. They complain that loyalist prisoners have had no concessions, despite a three-year ceasefire.

Academic's ambition

Mary McAleese, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast, is to seek the Fianna Fail nomination to succeed Mary Robinson as Irish President (Andrew Maguire writes). Professor McAleese, who will challenge the former Prime Minister Albert Reynolds for the party's backing on Wednesday, said: "The concept I have is a presidency of embrace, an open, wide pluralistic embrace." A Fianna Fail source said: "Fair play to her, but she has not a hope."

Ashdown admits coalition plan

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY Ashdown has admitted publicly for the first time that his party might be willing to join forces with Labour if the opportunity arose.

The Liberal Democrat leader says in the *New Statesman* that, if there had been a hung Parliament or a narrow Labour majority after the election, he would "certainly" have recommended coalition to his party. He says it was "not wise" to make his views known before May 1, and he acknowledges that some Liberal Democrats will be angered by his comments.

"Of course coalition is a possibility," he says in the interview. His remarks offer the clearest signal yet of a fundamental realignment in British politics in which, under a system of proportional representation, Labour and the Liberal Democrats could virtually destroy the Tories' chances of returning to power. The Government is commit-

ted to a referendum on proportional representation for Westminster elections within the lifetime of this Parliament, and the subject is at the top of the agenda for the newly established Labour-Liberal Democrat Cabinet committee, which is expected to meet for the first time next week.

Mr Ashdown predicts that Mr Blair, who has always said he is unconvinced by the case for proportional representation at Westminster, will come round to supporting it. "He knows perfectly well that the vast majority of modernisers in the Parliamentary Labour Party are in favour. He won't want to be on the opposite side of the argument from them."

Mr Ashdown, who was speaking just ahead of the Liberal Democrats' conference, admits that there is concern among grassroots activists at his willingness to cooperate with Mr Blair.

Fury grows at Hindley show



Alain Miller's *Eye Love Eye* is from a series on body organs; *Propped* by Jenny Saville questions ideas of beauty

Members of the Royal Academy are queueing to condemn the planned *Sensation* exhibition, reports Dalya Alberge

takes task RA sions'

THE Royal Academy of Arts faced a renewed barrage of criticism yesterday over its exhibition featuring a portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley made from children's handprints. The exhibition opens next week.

The painter Peter Coker joined fellow academicians who have called for the resignation of the RA's president, Sir Philip Dowson, and other senior figures. Mr Coker attacked them for sanctioning a show that relied on "shock tactics". Other exhibits feature nine pints of an artist's blood and dismembered limbs.

Mr Coker, 71, who paints landscapes, figures and still-lives, spoke out after reading a report in *The Times* earlier this week in which academicians, including Craigie Aitchison and Anthony Green, spoke of their disgust at the Hindley portrait.

Yesterday, Mr Coker said: "I was pleased to see that article. I'm pleased so many artists added their names to attacking the RA for showing such work. The president, secretary [David Gordon] and exhibitions secretary [Norman



Sir Philip Dowson and Norman Rosenthal have been urged to resign for organising the academy exhibition

Rosenthal] are acting totally irresponsibly and with no interest in the RA. It was created for artists to be run by artists. Yet we're now supposed to be incompetent. It should be run by an artist. They're trying to kill us off to get a rush for elections. They're like to see us all dead. When someone dies, there's an election. Rosenthal would have a field day. They're trying to recruit the avant-

my as a bastion of tradition were immediately outraged. Bernard Dunstan called for the painting to be withdrawn. Other exhibits that have caused concern are by the brothers Dinos and Jake Chapman: *Zygotic Acceleration Bio-genetic D-Sublimated Libidinal Model* (Enlarged x1,000) — limbless sex dolls with penises for noses and sex-doll orifices for mouths — and the Goyaesque *Great Deeds Against the Dead* — dismembered torsos, bloody severed limbs and a head hang from a tree and leave little to the imagination.

Mr Coker said: "There are two marvellous exhibitions in Scotland of Raeburn and Sargent. Both were distinguished Royal Academicians. The RA show is an insult to their names. The Raeburn is a beautiful exhibition. You'd never get Rosenthal to look at that sort of thing."

Philomena Davidson Davis, of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, expressed disgust at such work: "It's disturbing. Why do they feel a need to be doing it at all?"

However, two other acade-



Sarah Lucas's *Bunny*; her work confronts the sexism of the female nude, she says

micians, Tom Phillips and Norman Ackroyd, yesterday defended the Hindley work. "It's a serious piece on a serious theme by a serious artist," Phillips said. "That's what we're in the business of showing."

Mr Ackroyd described it as "a very good picture. It's no more horrific than what Goya did with his *Horrors of War*. One of the dangerous things as we approach the end of the 20th century is that people don't know the true horrors.

There are probably Hindleys and Bradys out there loose in society. Parents should be aware that these things can happen again. You can't sweep it under the carpet."

Acknowledging that many of the Saatchi exhibits rely on their power to shock, he said that the academy could not be "some kind of nanny... The public is grown up and can make up its own mind."

The issue is to be debated at a general assembly of the academicians today. James Robinson, deputy secretary of the RA, said that they would not come to a decision until next Tuesday. That, he added, was when Winnie Johnson, the mother of one of the Moors victims who has asked the RA to withdraw the picture, would also be contacted.

He said that Mr Coker and other academicians were entitled to their opinions and that there were plenty of others who felt differently: "That's the nature of the place. It's a broad church."

Lasers shed light on wartime records

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

WARTIME recordings made by Swiss radio technicians, including a speech by Winston Churchill and a broadcast by the Queen when she was 14, have been brought back to life with a new laser-based stylus.

The recordings were made on soft wax cylinders and discs by technicians monitoring wartime broadcasts from Britain. These are so fragile that a few normal playings damages them and their contents are lost.

Now a new stylus has been developed at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. Laser light is passed down a fine optical fibre a thousand times lighter than the diamond needles that were originally used to play the records.

The fibre rests on a part of the record's grooves undamaged by previous playings and its angled end acts as a mirror, reflecting the laser light to an electronic detector. As the fibre moves in the grooves, the motion of the beam is converted into an electrical signal by the detector, and then into sound. The signal also tracks the movement of the stylus towards the centre of the record; a small electric motor keeps it on track. This enables a very light stylus to track accurately and not jump.

The Swiss National Archive, Radio Swiss Romande and Television Suisse Romande are already using the stylus. "We have listened to speeches by leaders such as Churchill, Roosevelt and Hitler," Dr Philippe Robert of the Institute of Technology told *New Scientist*. "We were particularly charmed by a broadcast by the then Princess Elizabeth on her 14th birthday."

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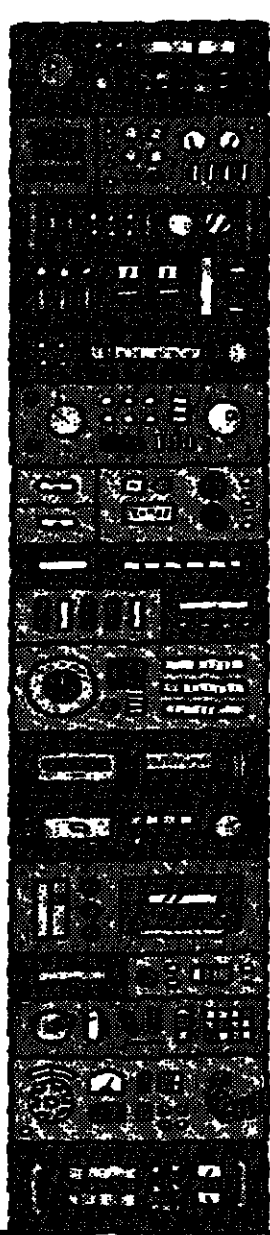
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Secrecy leaves investigation open to speculation

Ben Macintyre looks at the external pressures on the officials investigating the events of August 31

THE complex and sometimes baffling French legal system has prompted anger and frustration in Britain and a flurry of conspiracy theories and semi-believable news stories in France.

Traditionally, French legal investigations are long, thorough and remarkably secretive, but the massive investigation into the car crash on August 31 in which Diana, Princess of Wales, Dodi Fayed and their driver died is already one of the most extensive and intensely scrutinised of modern times.

The massive public interest in the Princess's death, coupled with intense media pressure, has led to a flood of stories, almost always from

unidentified sources and ranging from the plausible to the downright fictitious.

The course of a French criminal inquiry depends to a major degree on the individual investigative magistrate (*juge d'instruction*) in charge. He has almost complete freedom to decide which avenues to explore and what charges to bring.

Under French law it is illegal for magistrates or police to disclose information on a case under investigation. However, in high-profile cases information leaks out and can be published with impunity

although the leaker, if caught, faces prosecution.

In the current case, investigators and police have spent more time denying stories than providing concrete information, despite diplomatic nudging from Britain to be more open. In the past three days alone, the unidentified authorities have been forced to dismiss claims that a preliminary police report was leaning away from holding the pursuing paparazzi responsible; that a police speed camera caught the car speeding at 122mph; that illegal drugs had been discovered

in the wreck; and that money and a valuable necklace belonging to Mr Fayed had gone missing from the crash scene.

On Tuesday, the Paris authorities swiftly released the results of blood tests confirming that the car's chauffeur, Henri Paul, was driving with more than three times the legal alcohol limit in his blood. But it was not until pressurised by a series of leaks that the authorities conceded that traces of pharmaceutical drugs had also been found.

The two magistrates leading the investigation, Hervé Stéphan and

Marie-Christine Devidal, have set their own pace from the start, when it was announced that instead of limiting the potential charges against photographers to "failure to help persons in danger" (as recommended by the public prosecutor) the investigation would be broadened to include "manslaughter" and "involuntary injury".

Under the French system, after any road accident the public prosecutor first rules on whether a judicial inquiry is merited. If so, an investigating magistrate is appointed who decides whether any

suspects should be placed under formal investigation (*mis en examen*) and, if so, under which laws.

The third, and to British eyes most confusing stage, is when the magistrate decides whether there is a case to answer that should proceed to trial. This can take months, or even years, as the investigators compile and sift through evidence.

Many French legal experts argue that releasing information in the course of an investigation both hampers police work and undermines the presumption of inno-

cence, but the intervening period can be agonising for both the families of victims and those under investigation, while providing fertile ground for media supposition, if not plain invention.

The magistrates in the case have already been accused of bowing to public and political pressure by widening the potential charges against those still under investigation. Those accusations are certain to resurface, with a vengeance, if the investigators break with established tradition and suddenly begin to answer, in detail and on the record, some of the many unresolved questions surrounding the events of August 31.

Drug finding puts Ritz management at risk

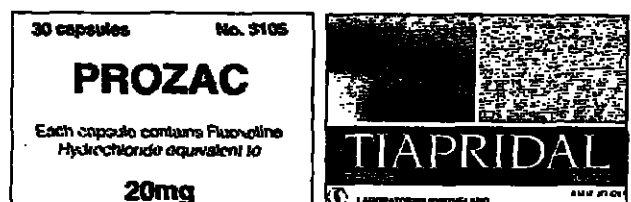
FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS AND
IAN MURRAY

MANAGEMENT at the Paris Ritz are at risk of being investigated for allowing a chauffeur under the influence of drink and drugs to drive the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed.

After yesterday's disclosure that Henri Paul was on drugs used to treat alcoholism, sources close to the inquiry said that its scope could be widened, and that Ritz staff might be called in for questioning. Under French law, managers of Mohamed Al Fayed's hotel could be prosecuted for "negligence" and "endangering the life of others".

Lawyers for the photographers under investigation for manslaughter in the case said that the drug test results proved that the chauffeur was responsible for the accident.

But Michael Cole, spokesman for Mr Al Fayed, said



Prozac and Tiapridal: accompanied by warnings on drowsiness and danger of mixing with alcohol

that an independent post-mortem on the driver was needed to confirm once and for all his condition at the time. Speaking to the American television company NBC, he criticized the way in which information on M Paul had been released, saying: "We think that there should be one investigation that answers all of the questions."

Tiapridal pills are accompanied with the precautions that "the patient should be warned on the risks of drowsiness entailed by the use of this drug" and that he or she should be advised against its use in conjunction with other

medication. Alcohol should be avoided during treatment, according to the drug's makers, Synthelabo, since this further slows reflexes.

The Medical-Legal Institute in Paris on Tuesday confirmed that a third set of blood tests showed that M Paul had 1.80 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood. The legal limit for driving in France is 0.5 grammes per litre. The tests also found significant traces of Prozac, which can enhance the effect of alcohol in some individuals and may also cause drowsiness, confusion and dizziness. Prozac comes with a warning that it can impair

driving. In theory Tiapridal should be obtained with a doctor's prescription, but it can be bought over the counter from French chemists.

Marindale's *Pharmacopoeia*, the pharmaceutical journal, states that Tiapridal is used to "alleviate distress, improve abstinence and drinking behaviour and facilitate reintegration within society".

A French doctor said that anyone consuming such a quantity of drink, along with two powerful drugs, was "probably falling apart", let alone in a state to drive a powerful car at high speed under tense conditions: "Classically, this drug is taken by alcoholics who are finding it hard to give up the bottle and want to continue to work".

Dr Patrick Toseland, a toxicologist at Guy's Hospital in London, said that long-term alcoholism could cause tremors, which the Tiapridal would control, although the drug had long been used in France as a



Henri Paul shown leaving the hotel on Saturday night. Staff said he looked sober

treatment for alcoholism. "It sounds as though he had been prescribed these drugs together in an attempt to cut his intake."

Dr Clifford Rose, chief neurologist at the London Neurological Centre, said the drug combination suggested that M Paul had been taking anti-

depressants for a long time. "It is common after a period of five years or so for someone to develop involuntary, violent, muscular movements, a jerking of the limbs. Tiapridal is a drug that can successfully control this type of reaction."

"We advise people taking anti-depressant drugs not to

drink, but I don't think in this case the mixture of alcohol and drugs would have made much difference. The point is that these are drugs which affect the central nervous system. They tend to overcome involuntary jerks, but they inevitably affect skills like the ability to drive."

Prozac and wine do not mix well



MEDICAL BRIEFING

PROZAC enhances the effect of any alcohol drunk and, likewise, alcohol increases any disinhibitory action of Prozac, so a person taking the combination would be more likely to take irresponsible risks.

The only sensible use of Prozac which treating an alcoholic would be to counteract depression after they had stopped drinking. It might also be prescribed if it was thought that a depressive illness was the underlying cause of the alcoholism, but it would not be given to a patient known to be still drinking.

Tiapridal is popular on the Continent. Other drugs in the same group are used to treat schizophrenia whereas Tiapridal is usually prescribed in France for patients with anti-social and aggressive

behavioural disorders. It is also used to lessen dyskinesia, the involuntary twitching and grimacing characteristic of some diseases and a side effect of some neuroleptic drugs used as major tranquillisers.

Tiapridal is also prescribed overseas to treat severe withdrawal symptoms when an alcoholic is being detoxified. In this respect, it is not to be confused with the patient's behaviour so that he can fit back into society after having stopped drinking. Marindale's *Pharmacopoeia*, the authoritative work on the prescription of drugs, suggests that all patients taking Tiapridal need to be carefully supervised.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Cricket clubs pay price for tributes

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO cricket clubs have been penalised because they cancelled matches last Saturday out of respect for the Princess's funeral. Local league officials have ruled that the games should count as victories for their opponents.

One of the sides, Norton in North Yorkshire, was in third place in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League, and had a chance of winning the championship. Their opponents, Darlington, were prepared to rearrange the date of the game, but officials were adamant: play or lose 20 points.

Another club, Preston-on-Tees, was penalised for cancelling its B Division match with Wolsingham. Frank Cook, the Labour MP for Stockton-on-Tees North, who was due to open Darlington's new £1 million sports complex on Saturday, said: "The decision is diabolical. Most sporting fixtures were put off as a tribute to the Princess."

Neil Fox, Norton's chairman, said: "We decided to postpone as a mark of respect. The league committee decided to penalise us 20 points. That is their decision: we stand by ours." Darlington moved up into fourth place after being awarded the match, but John Edwardson, an official at the club, said: "We take no satisfaction from getting the points like this."

Chris West, the league secretary, said: "There were only two weeks of the season left and it was not feasible to fix new dates. We talked to other cricket leagues and were told that the majority of clubs were playing. It was a hard decision to make, but we awarded the matches to the opposition."

A £3 million gift to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, came from the royal jewellers Asprey, it was disclosed yesterday. The Princess, a regular customer, was in the Old Bond Street shop two days before her death. She is believed to have bought a cigar cutter for Dodi Fayed.

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A policeman stands guard at the playground where Daniel Moore was attacked

Policeman's son injured in race revenge attack

By JOANNA BALE AND RICHARD DUCE

THE 12-year-old son of a policeman was seriously ill in hospital last night after he was badly beaten by a gang in retaliation for a racial attack in West London.

Daniel Moore was invited by an older man to join other white youths on a council estate and attack some local Asian boys. After a series of incidents between rival gangs he was left with serious head injuries during an attack that involved bottles, sticks and bricks.

Witnesses on the Edgar Road Estate in Hounslow said Daniel was among a group of white children who attacked some Asian youths at a recreation ground near his home. Daniel was later attacked in turn by a gang of 20 older youths.

Police said they believed the original attack had been fuelled more by drink than by a racial motive.

Daniel's sister Kelly, 17, a hairdresser, said her brother

and two friends aged 12 and 14 had met a man in his mid-20s at a bus stop. He had given them rum to drink before suggesting they go "Paki-bashing". She said: "They attacked five Asian kids who were at the recreation ground drinking and smoking. Some older Asian youths came along and Daniel's friends ran off so they attacked him. My brother was pleading with them 'Don't beat me up, I have not done anything wrong'. He has had to have an operation to remove two blood clots from his brain."

"Daniel is not a racist person. I think it's sick that a group of older boys have nothing better to do than beat up a group of 12-year-olds."

The boy's mother, Sarah, who works in a hospital pharmacy, is separated from his father, Dale, a police constable at Hounslow. Mrs Moore, who was at her son's bedside at Great Ormond Street Hospital, added: "We

are terribly upset. It's too early to tell how he's going to be."

A friend who was with Daniel when he was attacked at 9.20pm, whom police have asked not to be named, said: "We met a man who encouraged us to go Paki-bashing. When we had a go at five Asians they ran off. Someone threw a bottle at a passing car which stopped and there was some abuse."

"One boy in the car made a call on his mobile phone and about 20 Asians with bottles, bricks and sticks turned up. I said to Daniel 'Let's get out'. He ran off but the Asians attacked him. When I went back he was covered in blood with a huge gash on his head. He was conscious, holding his head in his hands and crying out in pain. A woman delivering a pizza saw him and called an ambulance."

Bradley Downes, 27, who was on the scene before the ambulance arrived, said: "Daniel was covered in blood.



I have never seen anything like it. There was a brick on the grass next to him covered in blood."

"The kids who attacked him ran off towards the centre of Hounslow so I ran off to try to find them. The family had only lived here six months and they seemed to be nice. Daniel is just a child and very good with the younger kids. He wouldn't hurt a fly."

Detective Superintendent Bob Moffat of the Metropolitan Police said he was treating the incident as attempted murder and played down the racial aspect, describing it as

an "isolated incident". "I am not aware of any problems between white and Asian gangs in this area," he said. "The two communities co-exist in harmony. There was an incident earlier this year near by but we believe it is unrelated."

Mr Moffat added: "Daniel has had a severe beating. Race is an element that we cannot ignore but drink may have been at the heart of it."

He said a white man was helping police with their inquiries. Residents on the estate, which is mainly white but

with some Asian families, said there was no problem of racist attacks. The estate is on the outskirts of Hounslow Heath, a nature reserve.

Harold Arnold, 78, who helps to run the community centre, said: "We've never had anything as serious as this before. There is always a lot of noise from youths hanging around on the recreation ground. Parents just let their children run wild. Even the younger ones are allowed out all hours of the night, so they are bound to end up in trouble."

Tourist was killed in 'gang attack on hotel'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A GERMAN holidaymaker was shot dead in front of her husband in a hotel bar by armed robbers who had been terrorising a county town, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Other members of the group of German tourists, in Bedford on a twin-town visit from Bavaria, had at first thought the raid was a prank connected with the river festival being held in the town, the jury was told.

Johanna Czardebou, 55, a grandmother, was shot in the face with a sawn-off shotgun by one of the gang as she sat in the bar after dining at the hotel. Her killer, it is alleged, was Alvin Black, 35, the leader of a gang which, the prosecution said, had been terrorising Bedford with a dozen robberies over 15 months. Frau Czardebou, who was with a party from Bamberg, was shot at the County Hotel in May 1996.

Nigel Ruffitt, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury: "One robber quite deliberately gunned down an innocent, harmless, respectable, middle-aged German lady right in front of her husband. He shot her in the face at close range. She died as a result of pellets penetrating her brain."

Between spring 1995 and the following summer the gang had conducted a "reign of terror". They were masked and armed with shotguns that they regularly fired, and someone was bound to be killed.

Mr Black, of Bedford, denies murdering Frau Czardebou. Together with his nephew Karlton Campbell, 20, Robert Skyers, 20, and John Stewart, 21, he denies conspiracy to rob in the 15 months to June 26, 1996.

Sidney Thompson denies assisting an offender. Mr Skyers also pleads not guilty to acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Ruffitt said that Mr Black, Mr Campbell, Mr Skyers and Mr Stewart were members of a "ruthless team of armed robbers who terrorised the town of Bedford". Thompson served as the gang's armoured, keeping their shotguns and other weapons in a lock-up garage.

Mr Ruffitt said: "They robbed shops and local businesses but, much worse than that, they attacked the homes of families of local shopkeepers and business people. They were armed with shotguns, axes, sledgehammers and knives."

At about 12.15am David Stewart, the deputy manager of the hotel, was hiding up when two of the gang, carrying a holdall, entered the reception area in balaclavas. One grabbed him and held a shotgun to his side, demanding the keys to the safe.

The second man jumped over the reception desk but Mr Stewart shouted to a colleague in the bar to call police. Mr Ruffitt said: "The gunman may not have expected so many people to be around. Not many appear to have spoken English." He said that one of the tourists, Otto Herman, spoke to the men and a gunman jammed a gun barrel in his stomach. He stepped back and almost immediately the gunman fired at Frau Czardebou.

They escaped but a carrier bag was later discovered in a lock-up garage owned by Thompson in which Black's trainers were found, the court was told; they matched a mark left on the hotel reception desk which he was said to have climbed over.

Pellets taken from the dead woman's body matched ammunition said to have been stolen by the gang from the home of a local shop-owner. The trial continues.

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BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

He also co-chaired the joint Labour and Liberal Democrat constitutional committee before the election and was a key figure in drawing up Labour's plans for the Lords. In his "fraternal address" to delegates in Brighton, Mr Cook



Under Labour's plans, the Lords would be reformed by the abolition of hereditary peers' voting and sitting rights, leaving a chamber of appointed life peers. Some crossbenchers and "professional" hereditary peers would be kept on as life peers to maintain the running of the Lords. A joint Lords and Commons committee would then consider whether the second chamber should be directly elected.

TUC reports, page 26



The Prime Minister's wife, who chatted with library staff, said at the unveiling:

"Together they present to us nature and science, poetry, art, architecture — all welded, interconnected, interdependent."

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

Reporting in *Nature*, Dr Thomas Perlz and colleagues argue that having children in the forties is an indication of a later menopause. The later the menopause, the longer the life-expectancy: a late menopause is evidence that the ageing process runs more slowly in

The study also raises questions about the function of the menopause, which does not

The menopause has a further advantage: human babies, unlike those of many other species, have long years of dependence before they can fend for themselves. The existence of a group of women too old to have any more children but still able to look after existing children therefore increases their likelihood of survival. A post-menopausal woman can contribute to perpetuation down the generations by looking after her children and ensuring their survival.

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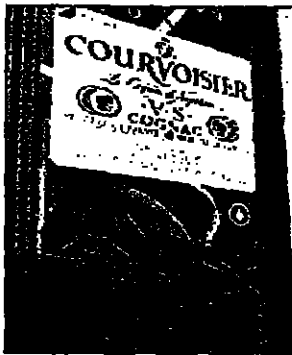
By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ELDERLY war veteran should have felt completely secure as a team of home helps took turns to care for him after an operation. Yet money kept disappearing from his wallet.

Worried relatives contacted the police, who hid a miniature camera in a brandy bottle box on his sideboard to keep watch on events in his home. The film revealed first that one home help, and then another, were taking turns to help themselves.

Unknown to each other, Elaine Himlin and Sylvia Smith were both stealing from 85-year-old Edward Welch when they called at his home in Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, to care for him following a hip replacement operation and a near-fatal bout of pneumonia. Both have been convicted of theft and sacked from North Tyneside's Homecare service.

Mr Welch, who served as



Police concealed a miniature camera inside this brandy box and placed it in Edward Welch's home



an Army captain in the Second World War, said: "I used to crack jokes with them and thought we got on well, but this has left me shattered. Probably the worst thing was that everybody who came into the house was under suspicion. It was not very nice. Even the poor old gardener said, 'I hope they don't think it's me.'"

The women were part of a

team of eight who provided round-the-clock care. Himlin, 38, visited in the morning to make flasks of tea, while Smith, 57, did the shopping once a week. Relatives called the police when £10 notes began disappearing from his wallet, and they discovered that his account was overdrawn by £200.

Over six weeks, the camera hidden in a Courvoisier brandy

box recorded the theft of at least £50. The video camera recorded the women taking money on several occasions.

Himlin, of Whitley Bay, admitted three counts of theft at North Shields Magistrates Court and was given a 12-month conditional discharge. She was also ordered to pay Mr Welch £30 compensation.

Smith, also from Whitley Bay, admitted two charges of theft and was fined £100 with £45 costs.

Mr Welch, a widower who worked for most of his life as a sweet manufacturer's agent, said after the case: "I have forgiven them. I am just sorry they fell for temptation."

Mr Welch's daughter Sandra Field, 54, said: "North Tyneside social services have done a marvellous job for him and it makes me angry that these two women let the whole side down."

A council spokeswoman said: "Incidents of this nature are very rare, but we take them very seriously."



Captured on film: Smith did the shopping twice a week



Captured on film: Himlin's job was to make flasks of tea

Security film shows stab victim on final journey

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE have released still pictures from a closed-circuit video recording of the last known movements of Rachel Barraclough, the 18-year-old woman who was stabbed to death in Wakefield last weekend.

The pictures show Miss Barraclough in Bradford on Saturday on her way to a night out in Wakefield. Her body was found 24 hours later at Heath Common on the outskirts of the town. She had been cut repeatedly about the body with a 3in blade.

Detectives hope to jog the memories of anyone who saw her on the night she died. The security camera pictures show her crossing the Interchange rail and bus station in Bradford city centre, where she had travelled by taxi from her home near by. She is also shown walking towards a cash dispenser, from which she withdrew £40, and leaving the Interchange.

Police are trying to establish whether she caught her bus to Wakefield from another stop or returned to the station. They have interviewed bus drivers, but have still to contact one who is in Spain.

Miss Barraclough, who had dark hair, was wearing a short skirt, a padded bomber jacket and low-heeled shoes.

The pictures will be used in a poster campaign and police will be showing them to people on the streets of Bradford and Wakefield this weekend.

A 40-strong team of detectives is working on the inquiry. They have interviewed male and female friends of the victim, who was a worshipper at St Matthew's Church in Bradford, but do not know if she had arranged to meet someone. They are still studying the security camera recordings.

The motive for the killing is unclear. Miss Barraclough was fully clothed and had not been sexually assaulted. Police have also ruled out robbery.

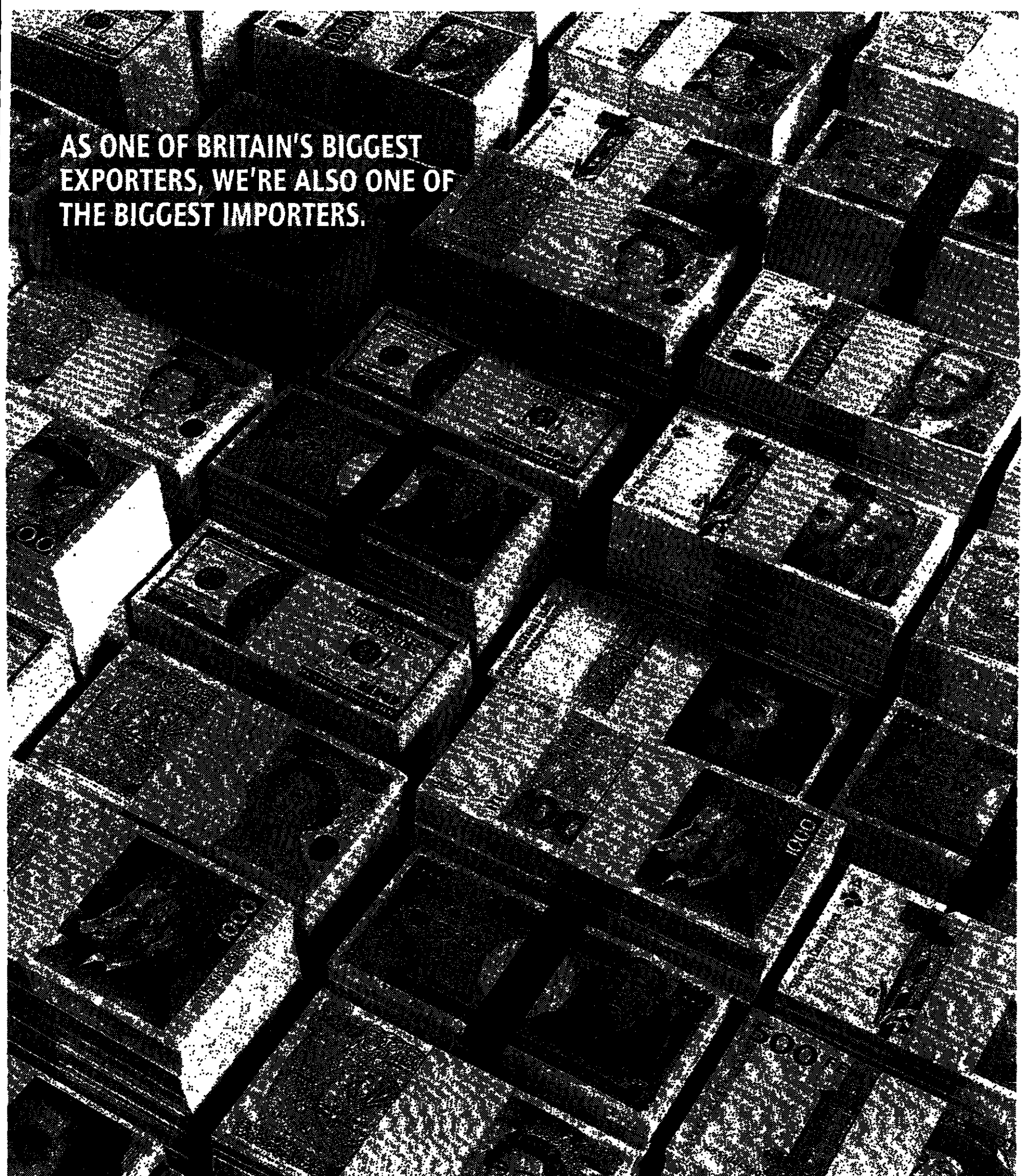
Detective Superintendent John Holt, leading the inquiry, said that Miss Barraclough had been travelling to Wakefield to meet friends since Christmas, and was carrying a ticket for the Buzz Bar. "I believe she knew or felt confident with her killer, but that does not mean it was a close friend. It may be that she has been chatted up in a bar, or met somebody as she travelled, and immediately felt at ease with them."

The murder weapon has not been found and yesterday officers carried out another search for it.



Rachel Barraclough at Bradford Interchange

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L drivers take to the information highway

A NEW method of learning to drive was launched yesterday. Cleverly, it does not involve getting into a car.

Virtual-reality driving simulators are the driving instructors of the future, it is claimed. The British School of Motoring unveiled the system by inviting a batch of novice motorists into its office in Guildford, Surrey, for a spin.

The simulator is a cockpit containing a driver's seat, steering wheel and all the controls of a Vauxhall Corsa. However, instead of windows it has virtual reality screens showing a changing environment of roads and landscapes

Damian Whitworth, a confirmed pedestrian, learns to drive the soft way - on a computer simulator

as the car is "driven". It is in effect a sophisticated version of the computer games in amusement arcades and has been devised by Faros, a French company which makes aircraft simulators used for training pilots. Its machines are already commonplace in France.

Two 16-year-olds learning on the simulator were busily whizzing along graphically

created roads and cheerfully doing emergency stops. "The simulator lets you learn in privacy and safety. When you and I learnt we had to go straight out on the road," said Mr Glover. He suggested I hop in and try a few manoeuvres myself. It seemed the right moment to point out that I was present precisely because, despite being 28, I was a non-driver. "Ah, right,"

said Mr Glover. "Well, they are designed for use by 16 and 17-year-olds, but it will be, er, very interesting to see how an older person gets on."

Research has shown that teenage boys are self-conscious about their first lesson in a real car and girls are worried about their safety.

Protesting that there were lots like me in London who did not drive, and that it was good for the taxi industry and trains are undervalued, I was ushered into the cockpit. People appeared from everywhere to make sure they did not miss the geriatric motorphobe take the wheel and, by the time I reached for the ignition, I was sweating more than a nonagenarian spinster taking her first lesson on the A1.

But it was great. The images are as good as any of the best virtual-reality experiences and although there is not the feeling of weight and solidity of a real car and one tends to be a lot more careful as there is no danger, there is a realistic sensation of driving. The instructions are given by a computer in a voice considera-

ble more humane than the average test examiner, even when delivering a ticking off for failing to fasten the seatbelt.

At the end of an hour I had enough clutch control to avoid stalling and drive along roads without other vehicles, though an excursion onto a busy

highway was less successful, causing no little amusement. Still, I was secretly rather pleased with myself, perhaps, even, inspired enough to enrol on a full course.

The simulators are complemented by computerised theory testing and an interactive program for testing per-

ception of hazards on roads. Eight simulators have been installed at centres around the country and more will be produced if these prove a success. They are suitable for use by 16-year-olds of all ages.

In France, such machines are used by some learners for 75 per cent of lessons before

they have a few hours in a real car on the road before their test. BSM would use the system only to introduce learners to the basics in a four or five-hour course.

A five-hour course on the simulator followed by your first lesson with a BSM instructor (human) costs £75.



Non-driver Damian Whitworth takes to the "road" in the simulator. Only the computer is in danger of crashing.

VIRTUAL LEARNING IN THE FAST LANE

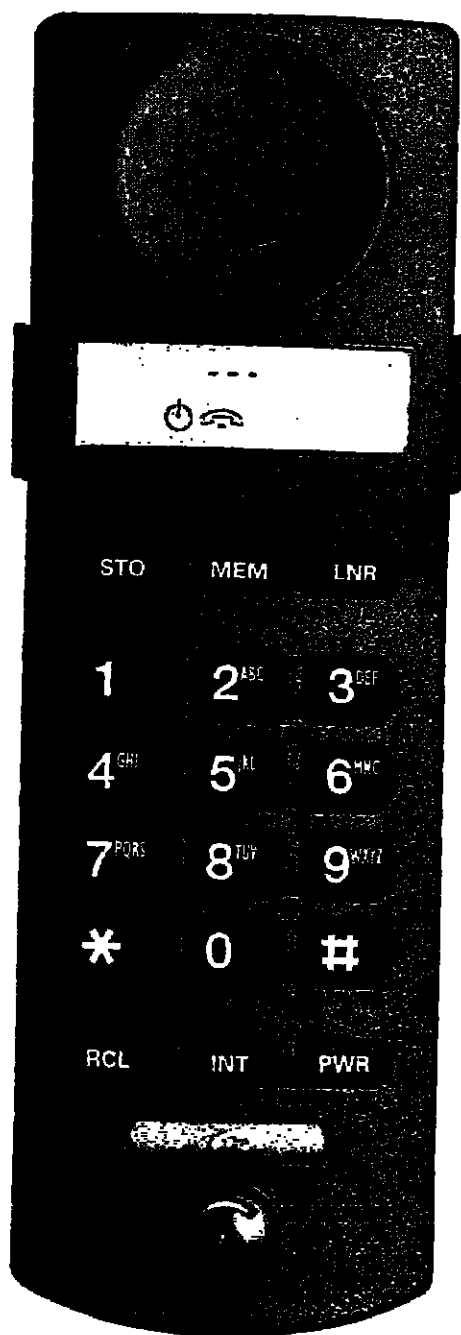
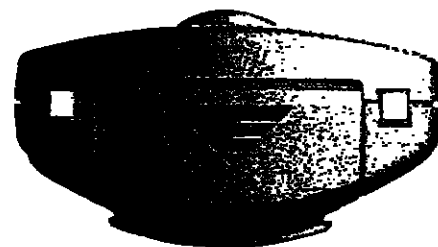
The RAC expects simulators to become part of the driving test within the next two years. The motor- ing organisation wants young drivers to be given lessons and tested on driving simulators as part of their theory and practical training, which would

give them confidence and prevent accidents.

Examiners would be able to find out how new drivers cope with stress, weeding out those unable to react to hazards.

The RAC wants the change to the driving tests to introduce learners to

a more comprehensive examination, which would include high-speed driving on motorways or dual carriageways. Nervous drivers could be introduced gradually to the speed of motorways through increased use of simulators.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Oil blast blamed on operation errors

Poor management led to a blast at an oil refinery in Milford Haven, south-west Wales, which injured 26 workers, said a report by the Health and Safety Executive. Inflammable vapour was accidentally released during an electrical storm in July 1994, when operations should have stopped. Texaco and Gulf Oil have been fined a total of £200,000 under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Fourteen safety recommendations are being passed to the industry.

Windsor gift

The Armed Forces are to present the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with 44 six-foot-tall lamps for the vaulted dining room at Windsor Castle to mark their Golden Wedding anniversary. The electrically powered lamps are being made by craftsmen at bases around the country.

Dental millions

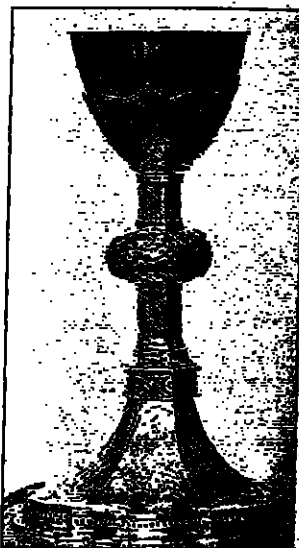
An extra £9 million is to be spent on NHS dental services in England, Alan Milburn, the Health Minister announced. The cash, to be made available immediately, will be used to alleviate the shortages of dentists in some parts of the country and improve the range of services available.

Goats saved

The lives of 70 rare Kielderhead goats have been spared after people in Northumberland and Co Durham offered them a home. The herd of goats, which live above Kielder village in Northumberland, had grown too big and the animals had started to move on to agricultural and forest land.

Shock horror

An electric chair once owned by the pop artist Andy Warhol sold at auction for £4,300. The Science Museum in London bought it in a sale of pop art memorabilia at Bristol Auction Rooms. Warhol was said to have sat in the chair, once owned by California's Department of Penal Correction, to watch horror films.



The Navan chalice

Chalice completes 30-year round trip

By AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A CHALICE that turned up in York Minster after disappearing from a church in Ireland 30 years ago will be returned today to its home in Co Meath. The Navan church had forgotten about the silver chalice, which was presumed stolen, when staff at York Minster wrote last year suggesting they had the missing vessel, worth up to £8,000. The engraved chalice had puzzled staff at the Minster after the city's Richard III Society presented it to them as a gift, in 1985. A society member had found it at an antiques stall and paid £500. The dealer said the source was legitimate.

The minster's archivist noticed an inscription, *Ecclesia cathedralis de Navan 1868*, and spent three years trying to find a Navan cathedral. The silver mark indicated the chalice had been made in Ireland, but Navan, Co Meath, was said to have no cathedral. Then last year an Irish Roman Catholic working at the minster renewed the hunt. He discovered that the church in Navan had been used as a cathedral during British rule. In 1868, the Bishop of Meath was presented with three chalices, including the one found in York, by his sisters.

The Dean of York, the Very Rev Raymond Furnell, will hand over the chalice to today's Bishop of Meath, Michael Smith, in a ceremony in Navan church. Mr Smith said the minster was very generous.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Zoologist says cloning could save species

REPORTS BY NICK NUTTALL AND NIGEL HAWKES

THE cloning of Dolly the sheep could lead to a new method of saving rare species from extinction, a British scientist said yesterday.

Dr William Holt of the Zoological Society of London, one of the world's leading experts on captive breeding of rare animals, told the British Association that the general reaction to cloning was that there was no conservation value in it. However, the important implications for saving vulnerable wildlife were only now beginning to be grasped by experts.

Dr Holt cited the case of the hairy-nosed wombat of Queensland, Australia, whose numbers are down to between 40 and 50 animals. "It is extremely vulnerable to catastrophes such as bush fires and could be eliminated overnight," he said.

The Dolly technique had made it possible to take tissue from some of the living wombats and store it against the possibility of a future disaster. Dolly was cloned from cells from the mammary gland of an adult ewe. Stored wombat tissue could be used to clone



Holt fears for the future of hairy-nosed wombats

embryos that would be implanted in a surrogate, closely related, species, with the offspring being released back into the wild.

Dr Holt said that to conserve genetic diversity among the reintroduced cloned wombats, it would be necessary to take tissue from ten or more of the existing population. He said the Dolly technology was useful only in mammals, but it might be

possible in the future to clone birds and insects.

Dr Holt also said that new methods were being used to boost the breeding success of elephant and rhino in zoos and the wild. Knowing if a female Asian elephant was fertile and ready to mate was notoriously difficult; it was also hard to tell if, after mating, she was pregnant.

Dr Holt said London Zoo was pioneering methods to monitor the creatures' reproductive cycles by detecting hormones and other compounds in their waste.

He likened the technique to a mail-order pregnancy testing service. It had helped zoos across Europe, including Chester, to increase the breeding success of Asian elephants. Dr Holt said they now had a similar detection system for African elephants which they hoped to launch soon.

The technique is also being used on a group of wild black rhino in Zimbabwe, where workers are collecting dung and sending it back to London for analysis.

One way of conserving the



There are only 40 to 50 hairy-nosed wombats left in Queensland: cloning techniques could ensure their survival

world's animal life was to find areas of high biological diversity, so-called "hot spots", the association was told. Richard Vane-Wright, of the Natural History Museum, said it was developing a computerised system capable of pinpointing such areas where the maximum number of species could be conserved for the minimum amount of land.

While most people consid-

ered the biologically rich areas of the globe were in the tropics, Mr Vane-Wright said Britain had a hot spot too. "It is not on land but in the seas. The diversity of codfish is, in the world, at its highest in the English Channel and the Irish Sea. There are some 45 species of codfish, including cod, hake and haddock, in the world. About half of these occur off the coast of Britain."

However, massive overfishing by European countries meant that this hot spot was now at risk.

Elodie Hudson, of Imperial College, London, said there was evidence that overfishing had a permanent impact on cod stocks. In eastern Canada, where the cod fishery had been closed for several years, there was an area where numbers of young cod were

increasing. However, that appeared to be because there were not enough older fish to guide them off on migration routes.

Dr Vane-Wright also told the association that loading Noah's Ark with animals two-by-two would have taken anything up to two years. He based his calculations on ten million species going in at five-second intervals.

IN BRIEF

Rebuilt Beirut in quake danger

The city of Beirut is being rebuilt on an earthquake faultline that has every chance of destroying it, a geologist said yesterday.

Rob Butler of the University of Leeds said that the fault, responsible for a small earthquake a few months ago, could have a lot more in reserve. Evidence of coastal "slumps" suggested that the new Beirut could end up at the bottom of the sea. "The city is being rebuilt on reclaimed land... even a relatively small earthquake will make the new buildings fall down."

Archaeological studies showed that the city had been destroyed before, in 551 AD, he said. Predicting the timing of the next quake was impossible because of a lack of seismological monitoring, and the company raising capital for the project appeared not to appreciate the danger.

Light fantastic for late workers

People working night shifts can have their "body clock" reset by a dose of bright light being shone on them as they start work, researchers have found.

The light appears to delay the onset of the wish to sleep until morning. It might allow workers to perform better at night and to get to sleep in the morning more easily, and so to enjoy greater well-being. Dr Lawrence Smith, of Leeds University, said that shift workers might have the first dose of light regularly topped up. The light appears to reduce the build-up of the hormone melatonin, which controls sleepiness.

Anti-racist drive 'made it worse'

Racial harassment in some parts of London is greater now than it has ever been, a study by a London University researcher has shown. Years of anti-racist efforts in schools and communities have produced a backlash among white adolescents, Dr Roger Hewitt said.

Young whites, convinced that teachers leaning over backwards to be anti-racist will no longer give them a fair hearing in any dispute involving black or Asian children, have developed a sense of persecution which fuels racism. The rise of Black Pride had left white children feeling culturally disenfranchised.

Clues to deaths among pond life

TWO new pests have been found in ponds which may have killed many common British frogs over the past five years.

Dr Andrew Cunningham, a veterinary pathologist at the Zoological Society of London, said a herpes virus had been detected at three sites in southern England. The virus, which causes a grey thickening of the skin, had been seen before only in the Agile species of frog in Italy.

He said a parasite, trichodina, had also been found at a site in Kent, where it had wiped out the

pond's tadpoles. The pest was known to kill frogs in South Africa and he was convinced it had been imported into Britain with ornamental fish.

The discovery of pests will raise concern. Since 1992 about 600,000 frogs in southern England have been found dead and dying, often with skin lesions and bleeding internal organs.

Dr Cunningham urged anyone finding dead or dying frogs to contact the Frog Mortality Project, PO Box 1, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 9AE.



A common frog infected by the new herpes virus

Government urged to allow pig transplants

ORGAN transplants from pigs to humans should go ahead despite fears that pig viruses might be transmitted to the recipients, a British expert said yesterday.

The risk would be minimal if relatively few transplants were conducted at the start and recipients were carefully monitored, said Professor David Onions of the Veterinary School at Glasgow University. He added: "All new medical advances pose risks as well as benefits."

Professor Onions urged the public to become engaged in the debate over a technique which may become one of the

most important additions to medical technology in the next century. A government committee under Professor Ian Kennedy has advised delay because of the dangers of infection. Many dangerous pathogens, including HIV and the flu virus, originated in animals.

Professor Onions said that the dangers were great enough in the case of wild-caught or first-generation primates to preclude their use, even if ethical considerations were set aside, but there were steps that could be taken with pigs. Breeding programmes that involved producing pig-

lets by hysterectomies, and then weaning them away from their mothers, eliminated virtually all known viruses if the process was repeated in a second generation, he said. What remains are unknown viruses, and a retrovirus which forms part of the pig's own genes and is passed down from generation to generation.

Careful study should be able to eliminate the currently unknown viruses, leaving only the retrovirus, which cannot be eliminated except by further genetic manipulation. That would take time, he said.

Plastic callipers get the measure of the promiscuous male

THE annual conference of Britain's most eminent scientists was yesterday stopped in its tracks by a paper investigating male promiscuity, based on research involving 80 student volunteers and a pair of callipers.

As his incredulous audience lapsed into schoolboy giggles, Dr Robin Baker, of Manchester University, explained his thesis: men with large testicles are far more likely to stray.

Dr Baker asked volunteers to measure the size of their left testicle,

using a set of plastic callipers supplied for the purpose. They were also asked to reveal their sexual experiences, and to retain evidence of sperm volume by using condoms and recovering them without spillage after sex. Plainly, this was not a project for the shy and retiring.

The results, Dr Baker said, showed that 12 of the 80 had been unfaithful to their partners over the period of the study, and that this was correlated with the size of their testes. "Bad boys have big balls,"

was the succinct summary of the experiment by Professor Mark Ferguson, also of Manchester University, who chaired the session in which Dr Baker reported his results.

Testes size varies greatly in men. In the study, the smallest was a diminutive eight cubic centimetres (though Dr Baker conceded there may have been a measurement error) while the largest was 52 cubic centimetres. The average was 24 cubic centimetres. Measurement of the sperm ejaculated showed that

men with bigger testicles produced more.

Assuming the results are correct, the study raises the question of why there should be so much variation in testicle size, and why both patterns of behaviour should have survived through evolution.

Study of closely related primates gives a clue. The uxorious gorilla, which mates for life, has very tiny testes, while the promiscuous chimpanzee sports remarkably large ones. The human male lies between these two extremes, suggesting that

his behaviour pattern may also be intermediate.

Dr Baker pointed out that for both the faithful and the faithless pattern to have persisted through evolution, both must be equally "fit" in terms of ensuring that the male's genes are passed on.

He argues that promiscuous men spread their sperm as widely as possible by mating with many women. But they are not around to help to bring up their children, who therefore have a lower chance of survival. The faithful, on the other

hand, impregnate fewer women but, because of their stable relationships, are more likely to see their children grow up to pass on their genes to a further generation. Thus both approaches can work and remain part of human experience.

How typical of normal men are a group prepared to submit their bodies and their sex lives to this kind of scrutiny? "Well, they're students," says Dr Baker. "In fact, their level of unfaithfulness seems about right, judged by the results of other surveys."

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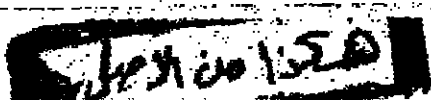
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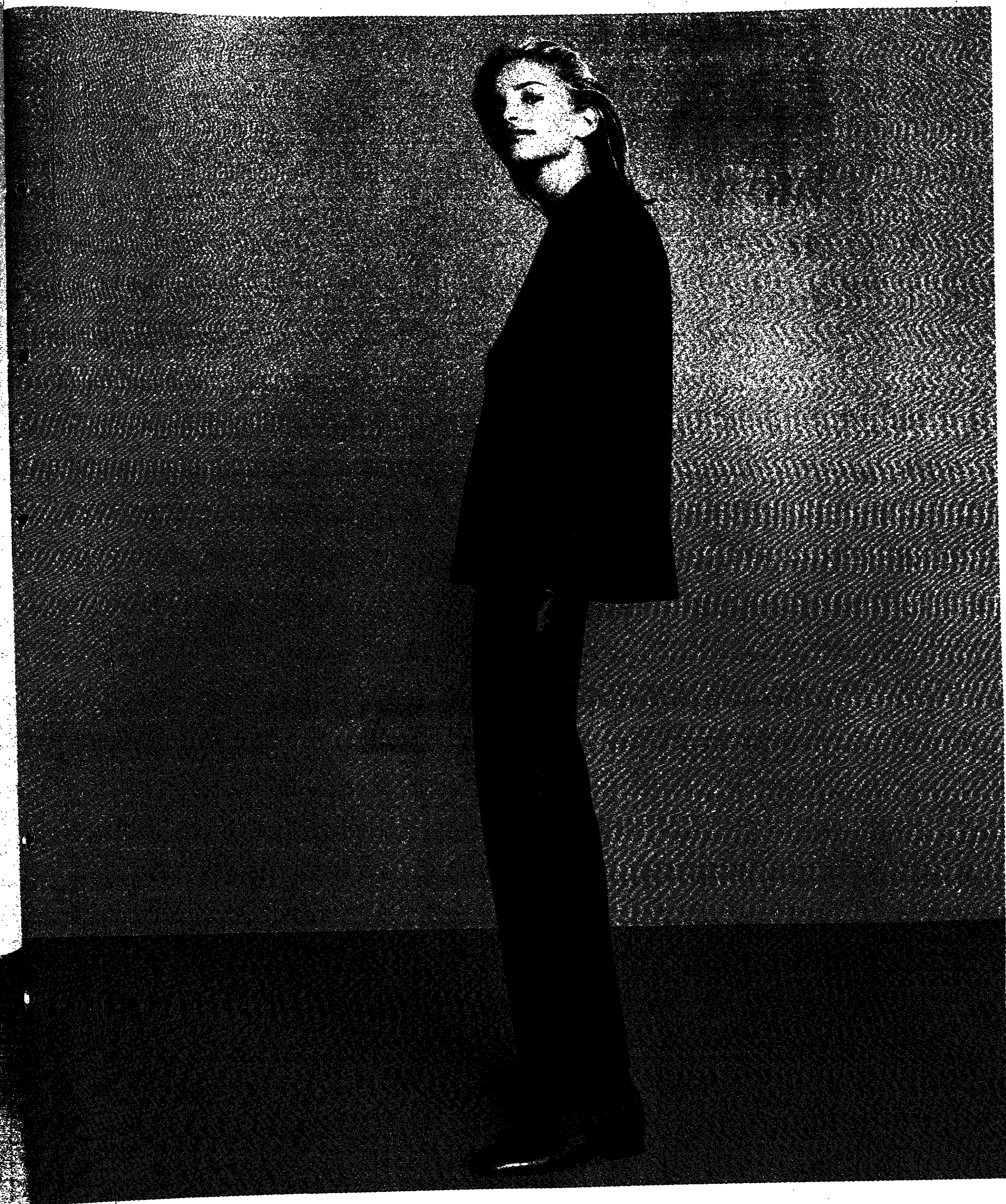
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White House fights off Helms challenge over Mexican envoy



Weld: nomination blocked

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has announced that he will step up White House support for the nomination of William Weld as Ambassador to Mexico, and to confront directly the roadblocks thrown up by Senator Jesse Helms.

Mr Clinton's declaration this week comes as Mr Helms, whose position as chairman of the Foreign Relations committee has earned him the label "most powerful

Republican in Washington", struggles to avoid a direct challenge from within his own party to his refusal to grant Mr Weld a hearing.

Such is Mr Helms's power over nominations to foreign posts that Washington would be astounded if his views did not win the day. But Mr Weld, a Republican who was formerly the Governor of Massachusetts, has been given a glimmer of hope by the political pressure mounting on Mr Helms. Republicans are afraid that Mr Helms's

obdurate manner will prove highly unpopular across the nation, and will draw attention to the current battle for the soul of their party.

On the surface, it appears to be Mr Weld's backing for the medical uses of marijuana which has earned Mr Helms' enmity. The senator has indicated he would support Mr Weld for other positions, but not for the Mexican post, where drugs policy is top of the agenda.

However, congressional Republicans see the battle as a tussle

between two wings of the Republican party: those who identify with the aristocratic, Northern, liberal Mr Weld, and those who share the sympathies of the Southern, arch-conservative Mr Helms.

In a rearguard manoeuvre, to defend himself from charges that he is frustrating the process of government, Mr Helms said this week that many committee chairmen blocked hearings, but they preferred to do so in private.

Until Mr Clinton's commitment on Tuesday to do battle for his

nominee, Mr Weld had been left to trudge the corridors of Capitol Hill alone. But whatever their combined efforts, it is Trent Lott, head of the Republican majority in the Senate, who has the power to force a hearing. However, Mr Lott has come under fire himself from his own party for indecisive leadership of the Senate. Republicans questioned this week whether he would want to risk his political clout in a showdown with Mr Helms.

In a separate confrontation, but one which provoked cross-party

support, Mr Helms has mounted a fierce attack on Tung Chee-hwa, the new chief executive of Hong Kong, in his first visit to Washington.

Mr Helms, who sees himself as a foe of Communism, introduced a resolution to Congress this week which criticised Mr Tung for rolling back the electoral reforms pushed through by the British immediately before the handover of Hong Kong to China on July 1.

Leading article, page 21

WORLD SUMMARY

Taleban forced to retreat

Karachi: The Taleban Islamic militia was in retreat after three days of heavy fighting around the Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif (Zahid Hussain writes). On Monday Taleban jets bombed the city in an attempt to seize the stronghold of the northern alliance.

General Allah Rahmati, spokesman for the alliance, claimed that the Taleban fighters were retreating. Aid workers said the rival groups were locked in heavy fighting on the outskirts of the city and that the Taleban controlled a main road leading into it. The militia is bombarding the city with tanks and artillery fire. The aid workers said the Taleban was about 12 miles outside the city.

Grozny stay of execution

Grozny: Chechnya has postponed a second public execution, averting a new row with Moscow which has called the practice barbaric and illegal. Khavazh Serbiyev, prosecutor general of the breakaway republic, said two murderers had been due to face a firing squad but that the head of the Islamic court was not available to oversee the execution. It may now take place today. (Reuters)

Nazi gold 'in Vatican vault'

Rome: The Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which tracks Nazi fugitives, has asked the Pope to open Second World War archives in order to trace money stolen from Jews by Nazi-supporting Croats. The centre's Simon Samuels said that money stolen from some 900,000 Jews, Gypsies and Serbs killed by Croats during the war ended up one way or another in the vaults of the Vatican. (AFP)

Tajik capital hit by blasts

Dushanbe: Explosions rocked a main thoroughfare here in Tajikistan's capital, though nobody was hurt. The United Islamists opposition said the blasts would not prevent the return of their exiled leader, Sayid Abdullo Nuri, who was initially scheduled to return from Iran on Monday. His arrival has been delayed for security reasons. (Reuters)

£22m robber confesses

Zurich: A postal worker detained as a suspect in Switzerland's biggest-ever robbery of Sfr 53 million (£22.4 million) has confessed, prosecutors said. Around £14 million is still missing. Police arrested 13 suspects and found £8 million. A Lebanese student is being sought. (Reuters)

Clinton insurers cut off Jones sex case cover

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON has lost his insurance cover for legal costs in the Paula Jones sexual harassment action, a blow that could land him with heavy lawyers' bills and which makes an out-of-court settlement much more unlikely.

Two insurers which have borne the estimated \$1.5 million (£940,000) cost of Mr Clinton's legal defence are pulling out of the case because of "technical" changes in the legal action.

If the case goes to trial next May, as promised by District Judge Susan Webber Wright this week, Mr Clinton faces paying an estimated \$1 million in further legal fees to the firm of his chief lawyer, Robert Bennett. That would put a strain on the Clinton finances, which are already burdened by more than \$2.25 million in bills from the Whitewater investigation.

Mrs Jones, who says that Mr Clinton, while Governor of Arkansas, made sexual advances to her in a Little Rock hotel room, could also suffer from the decision. She has indicated that she is not interested in a settlement, a

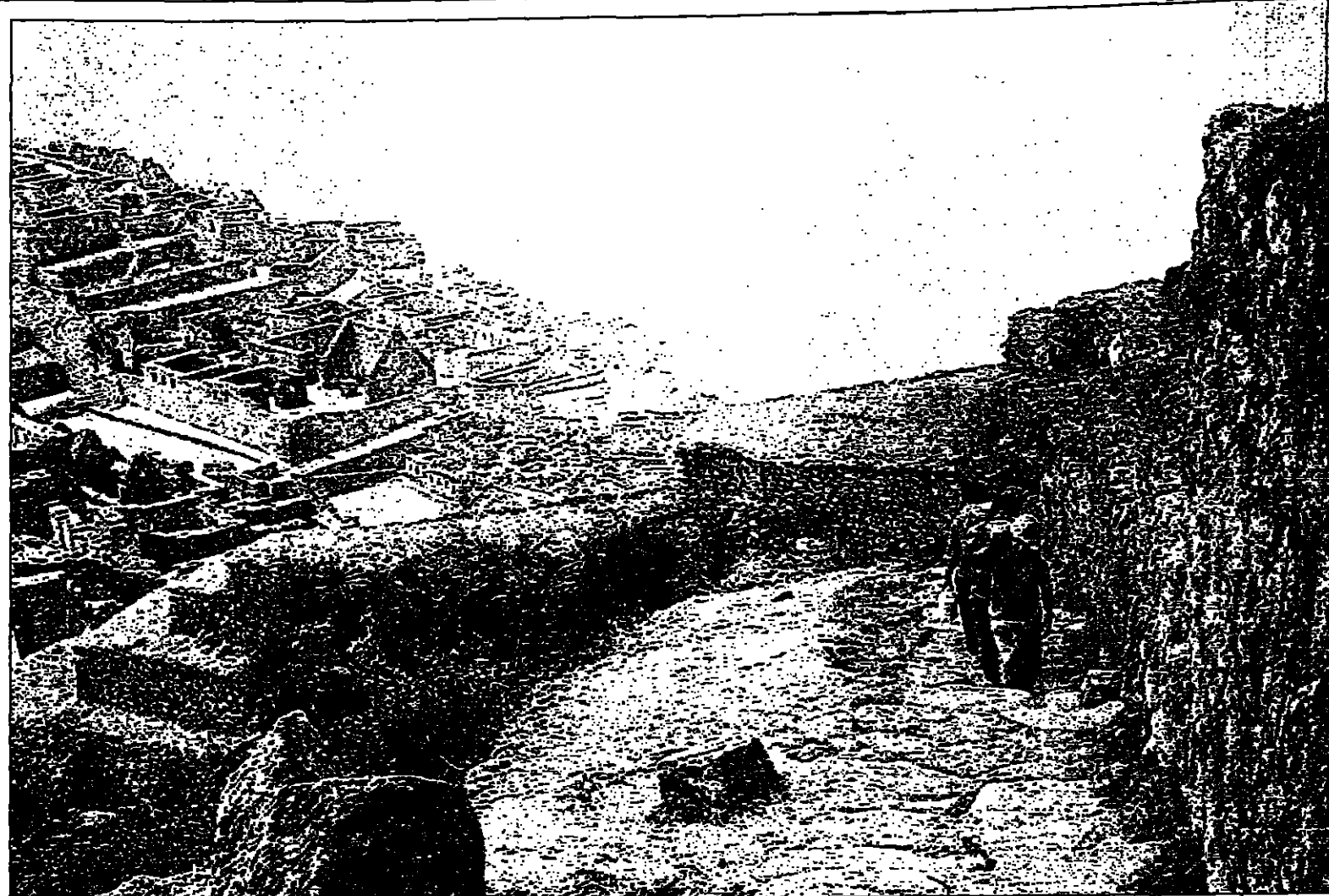
stance that appears to have been behind her lawyers' decision this week to remove themselves from her case. The two lawyers said on Monday that they had "fundamental differences of opinion" with Mrs Jones about how the case should proceed. Mr Clinton's loss of insurance now makes a settlement highly unlikely, even if she changes her mind.

"The President is not going to pay any money [to Mrs Jones] out of his own pocket," Mr Bennett told *The Washington Post*. "If there is a final departure of insurance money, that makes a settlement almost impossible." According to the paper, Mr Bennett has offered to continue the case free of charge, but is likely to be barred from doing so. His firm, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, does political lobbying work and it would be deemed a conflict of interest if it carried out free work for the President. The firm's fees to date, reported as \$1.5 million, are more than twice the \$700,000 Mrs Jones is seeking.

Mr Clinton's personal liability insurance is of the kind that is standard on a homeowner's policy. It has been supplied by State Farm Insurance and Pacific Indemnity, a subsidiary of Chubb Group Insurance. State Farm said on Monday that it had stopped its cover and Chubb is reported to be poised to follow suit, although Mr Clinton's lawyers are scrambling to persuade it to change its mind. The trigger for the companies' pullout was a court ruling on August 22 that Mrs Jones could not proceed with a defamation claim, one strand of her action. In the companies' view, defamation was the only claim clearly covered by the President's policies.



Jones: settlement now highly unlikely



Soldiers carry fire extinguishers in the Machu Picchu ruins. Water-carrying helicopters were helping to keep fires from encroaching on the site

Machu Picchu ruins still threatened by blaze

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL dozen tourists and more than 1,000 farmers were evacuated yesterday from villages around the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, in the Peruvian Andes, as a fire engulfed two mountains and a valley near the archaeological World Heritage site.

Peruvian authorities said the flames had not damaged the ruins and were being contained in an area more than a mile from what is believed to have been the Incas' most sacred ceremonial centre. The whole

site has been closed to tourists until further notice and archaeologists say they fear that smoke could damage the ruins of the city.

A brushfire broke out on mountainsides around Machu Picchu on Sunday, destroying 1,000 acres of vegetation; it was extinguished on Monday. But dry and windy weather, coupled with local peasants burning weeds in their fields, are thought to have started a new blaze on neighbouring mountains yesterday.

Forest fires are common in the region at this time of year, but have never come so close to the spectacular

stone ruins of the so-called "Lost City of the Incas".

"Helicopters are being used to douse the mountainsides below the citadel with water. We will make sure the fire does not reach the ruins," Carlos Valencia, director of the Machu Picchu archaeological site, said. "There is much smoke around the ruins and archaeologists will have to determine how much damage this has caused the ancient city."

Flames spread yesterday through the valley of Vilcanota and reached the peaks of the bush-covered mountains of Huaynapichu and Putausi,

which are about three miles from Machu Picchu. No one has been reported injured and the authorities said that the fire had not affected hotels in the area, villages or the railway that runs from the nearby city of Cuzco to Machu Picchu.

But dozens of hikers from Israel, Germany and France who had been trekking along the main path up to the ruins were evacuated from the area and put on a train to Cuzco. More than 1,000 subsistence farmers and llama herders from Agnas Calientes were also evacuated to the nearby town of Ollantaytambo.

Black leader upsets mayoral campaign

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

THE Rev Al Sharpton, the outspoken black leader, yesterday emerged as a surprise mayoral contender for the Democratic Party here after he forced the favourite, Ruth Messinger, into a second round "runoff" in New York's primary.

The runoff, on September 23, will establish the party's candidate to face Rudolph Giuliani, the seemingly invincible Republican incumbent.

In November's mayoral elections, Ms Messinger fell one point short of the 40 per cent of the vote required to secure a first-round nomination. Mr Sharpton's 32 per cent share of the vote represents a remarkable achievement, even allowing for the fact that voter turnout, at a mere 18 per cent, was the lowest in any Democratic primary since the Second World War.

Mr Sharpton had not raised enough money for a single television advertisement. In fact, he did not even meet the

\$250,000 (£155,000) threshold for qualifying for City campaign finance. Ms Messinger, on the other hand, enjoyed the full backing of the party's establishment, with daily broadcasts, on all main channels.

However, Ms Messinger neglected to campaign on the streets, while Mr Sharpton walked through much of New York, kissing babies and pressing the flesh.

She was also hit by the "Louiina effect", so called after the case of Abner Louima, a

Haitian immigrant who was allegedly tortured by white police officers in the locked toilet of a Brooklyn precinct. Black Democrats, particularly those in Brooklyn, voted en bloc for Mr Sharpton. Ms Messinger is still expected to win the runoff, although she will have to match some of Mr Sharpton's radicalism to attract more of the black vote. By doing so, however, she is sure to provide useful ammunition to Mr Giuliani, whose re-election has never looked more assured.

US told 'no landmine exemption'

THE Canadian Foreign Minister yesterday delivered a sharp rebuke to the United States over its demand to keep anti-personnel landmines along the Korean border while supporting a global pines ban (Michael Evans writes).

Lloyd Axworthy, who initiated the so-called Ottawa process — expected to lead to a December treaty, signed by more than 100 countries, banning production, storage and use of anti-personnel landmines — said that there could be no compromise for the Americans in Korea.

Last week, the US delegation arrived for the first day of the 19-day Oslo negotiations issuing a warning that its members would walk out unless America was allowed to keep landmines on the border between South Korea and North Korea.

Mr Axworthy said there could be no flexibility on exemptions, even if the US refused to sign the draft treaty next week, but he added that it might be possible to be flexible on some phasing-in times.

Jewish students take Yale to task over dormitory rule

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

FIVE orthodox Jewish students, due to begin their undergraduate degrees at Yale University next week, are demanding an exemption from the rule that obliges all freshmen to live on campus, likening the dormitories to "Sodom and Gomorrah".

The students, told by the university's authorities that they had a choice between staying on campus or taking their degrees elsewhere, have threatened to sue Yale if their demand is not met.

The university, however, is adamant that it will not bend its residential rules, regarded as an essential part of a freshman's "character-forming package", as well as contributing to Yale's *esprit de corps*. Richard Brodhead, the dean, said: "If you allow all groups based on affiliation or conviction to separate themselves from the whole university community, you open the door to all kinds of self-segregation that this place has worked very hard against."

Yesterday, Elisha Dov Hack, one

of the students, was given much space on the comment page of *The New York Times* to explain his position. He wrote: "Life in the dorms, even on the floors Yale calls 'single sex', is contrary to the fundamental... principles of Judaism, lived according to the Torah and 3,000-year-old rabbinic teachings."


"When I entered the dorms during an orientation tour, I literally saw the handwriting on the wall. A sign titled 'Safe Sex' told me where to pick up condoms on campus. Another

sign touted 100 ways to make love without having sex, like 'take a nap together' and 'take a steamy shower together'."


Mr Dov Hack asks why the group should be expected to "stand up to" classmates whose sexual morality differed from theirs. "We cannot, in good conscience, live in a place where women are permitted to stay overnight in men's rooms, and where visiting men can traipse through the common halls on the women's floors — in various stages of undress — in the middle of the

night... Unless Yale waives its residence requirement, we may have no choice but to sue the university to protect our religious way of life."


Yesterday Thomas Conroy, a spokesman for the university, said that he saw no legal requirement to excuse Orthodox Jews from the residency rule. "We understand," he said, "that that aspect of the Yale educational experience is not going to be attractive to everyone. And we understand, too, that it means that some prospective students will choose to go to school elsewhere."




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Police 'used Steve Biko as battering ram'



Nkosinathi, Steve Biko's son, watches as the former policeman gives his account of the activist's death

FROM SAM KILEY
IN PORT ELIZABETH

THE mysterious death of Steve Biko, the black consciousness leader who died in detention 20 years ago this week, was yesterday explained in evidence which his family lawyer said meant police had used him as a "battering ram" against his cell wall.

Reading from an affidavit sworn by Gideon Nieuwoudt, then a warrant officer, who has applied for amnesty in nine other alleged political killings, George Bizos, the Biko family's lawyer, said that he and three other policemen had "moved several times to the corner of the room and ran [Biko] at it".

Harold Snyman, who had been in charge of the interrogation team and was the first policeman to take the stand in the amnesty hearings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, insisted Mr Biko had sustained a head injury after "falling against a wall during a scuffle".

In reply to Mr Bizos's suggestion that Biko had been rammed into a wall he replied with typical apartheid-era doublespeak: "No. That would have been due to the momentum of the movement." In

Retired colonel seeks amnesty for the death of black consciousness leader

arguing against amnesty for the first of his killers, the Biko family's lawyer said Mr Snyman had fallen well short of the "full disclosure" necessary to escape prosecution.

Six days after the assault Biko died of the head injury which had been followed by a 750-mile drive to Pretoria central prison. He received no medical attention.

Mr Snyman, 69, said that Mr Biko had been injured by his interrogators in self-defence in the notorious torture chamber, "Room 619", in a tower block in Port Elizabeth. Within an hour of arriving at the building he had sustained the fatal injury. Ignoring his slurred speech and inability to stand after the blow to his head, he was chained by the ankles and wrists to the bars of a cell door with his arms and legs spread for "the best part of the day".

Mr Bizos asked what had brought about the "fight" which led to Mr Biko's "accident". Mr Snyman, who could face murder charges if his amnesty application is

turned down, said that Mr Biko had twice tried to sit on a chair during questioning.

"Daniel Seibert [who is also seeking amnesty] told him to keep standing. He sat down again and Seibert shouted at him to stand up and then pulled him up by the clothes quickly. The deceased attempted to punch Seibert... [Jacobus Benseke] entered the room and shouldered Biko and pushed him towards the wall," said Mr Snyman. The



Biko died in police custody 20 years ago

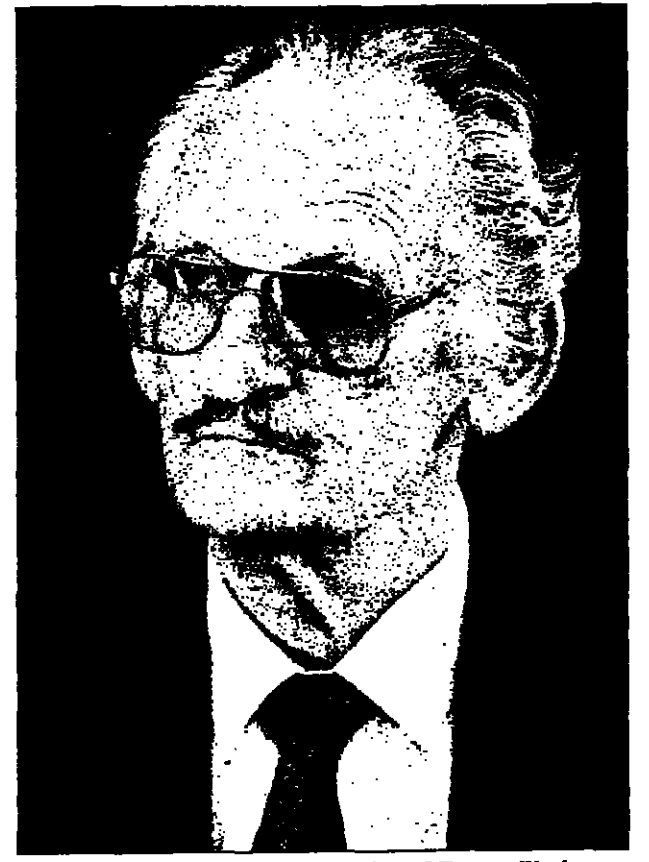
former Bureau of State Security officer's evidence stuck closely to his discredited testimony at the inquest into Biko's death in 1977 as the former police colonel appeared to treat the hearing as a trial rather than a chance to admit his past activities.

Mr Snyman said he had joined the rest of the team in covering up for Mr Biko's death in detention on the orders of his immediate superior, Colonel Pieter Goosen. He told the amnesty commission of three judges and a hall of about 2,000 people outside Port Elizabeth that the colonel had told them Biko's death in detention could be a major blow to the National Party and the state.

He argued that his actions had been to protect the white Afrikaans-speaking people against a communist onslaught. But he found himself unable to admit that Mr Biko had been assaulted — although his amnesty application is for Biko's assault and subsequent death.

"Does that mean that his injuries were his own fault and not of you or your colleagues," Mr Bizos asked.

The former boss agent, who rose to colonel before he retired, refused to answer.



Harold Snyman told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Biko's injury was due to a 'fall'

Stompie witness 'too scared' of Winnie to testify

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE main witness to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's alleged part in the death of Stompie Seipei was last night in hiding in Britain, too frightened to return to South Africa to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Katiza Cebekhulu, who has signed an affidavit accusing Mrs Mandela of stabbing the teenage activist in December 1988, said yesterday that he believes he will be arrested and murdered if he returns to South Africa.

Mr Cebekhulu, one of seven members of the "Mandela United Football Club" bodyguards charged with kidnapping and assaulting Stompie, disappeared before the trial in 1991. He was abducted and spirited to a Zambian prison when it became clear he intended to testify against Mrs Mandela. A warrant for his arrest still stands, and the Attorney-General of Gauteng has said Mr Cebekhulu will be arrested as soon as he arrives in South Africa. Four of his co-accused have been granted immunity from prosecution. Mr Cebekhulu, applied to the commission for amnesty in May.

Fred Bridgland, the former Reuters correspondent in Johannesburg who wrote *Katiza's Journey*, which was published this week, said Mr Cebekhulu "knows he would not be safe with the police, as the last time he was arrested he was handed over to Winnie. Highly placed people in South Africa do not want Katiza to testify to the commission, and are making sure he is too scared to do so."

Mr Cebekhulu jumped bail in 1991 when told of a plan to murder him, and police offi-

cers who arrested him handed him over to Mrs Mandela. He was beaten and scalded with boiling water, and believes he would have been murdered had he not escaped from a car boot. He was later kidnapped again and taken abroad.

Emma Nicholson, the former MP who has championed Mr Cebekhulu's case, said yesterday that the commission had refused her request that they consider his evidence outside South Africa. However, Alex Boraine, acting chairman of the commission said it would consider the move.

"If we cannot secure indemnity for him because he left the country, hardly voluntarily, we will have to find a safe place outside the country where members of the amnesty committee can hear his application," Dr Boraine said. Mr Cebekhulu, who was until recently in Sierra Leone, left there when civil war broke out earlier this year. He is in hiding in Britain on a visitor's visa.

Miss Nicholson, who is soon to enter the House of Lords, said: "Katiza should be able to give his evidence in safety, either in South Africa or abroad."

"He cannot be entirely safe anywhere, but he should get asylum in a European country, preferably here."

Mr Cebekhulu has also accused Mrs Mandela of being involved in at least two other murders. In 1991, Mrs Mandela was given a six-year jail sentence for kidnapping and assaulting Stompie, reduced to a 15,000 rands (£2,000) fine on appeal. Jerry Richardson, the "coach" of Mandela United, was jailed for life for the murder.



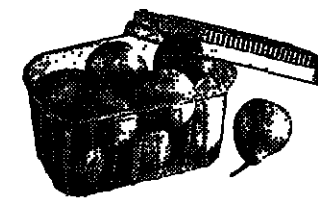
Katiza Cebekhulu at a press conference yesterday with Emma Nicholson who has taken up his case

Mandela in public clash with Mugabe

Harare: President Mandela of South Africa and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe have quarrelled over which of them should lead a potentially powerful Southern African security organisation. It is the first open clash between the two men (Jan Raath writes).

The argument lasted for six hours in front of seven other heads of state of the 14-nation Southern African Development Community at its annual summit in Blantyre, Malawi, on Monday night.

The state-controlled *Herald*, Zimbabwe's leading daily newspaper, said the exchanges were heated. Mr Mugabe's resentment of Mr Mandela's international adulation and of being usurped as Southern Africa's pre-eminent statesman has underlain the relationship between the countries since Mr Mandela was released from jail in 1991.



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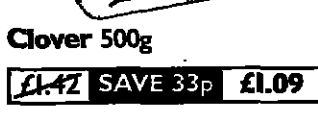
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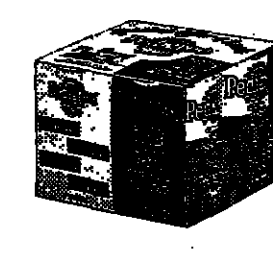


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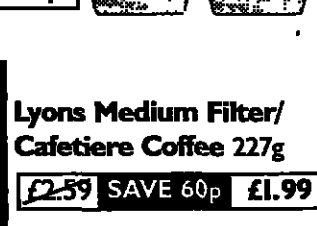
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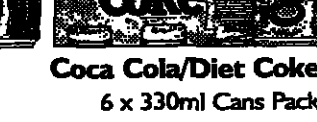
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Accusations of bias blight Albright trip

ACCUSATIONS of pro-Israeli bias greeted Madeleine Albright within hours of her arrival in the Middle East as US Secretary of State on a mission described by many Arabs and Israelis as the last chance to save the peace process.

She had just delivered a stinging rebuke to Islamic terrorists trying to destroy peace, and demanded that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, wage an uncompromising war on them.

Ms Albright held three hours of talks with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, which he described as "most cordial" and then told reporters that she will tell Mr Arafat at talks today in the West Bank that "security is at the centre of my agenda".

Speaking at a good-humoured news conference with Mr Netanyahu, Ms Albright said unambiguously that "there is no moral equivalent between killing people and building houses". She was referring to repeated Palestinian demands that Israel stop the construction of Jewish settlements as a condition for resuming peace talks halted since March.

Even before her arrival, the Palestinians had accused the Prime Minister of trying to sabotage the Oslo peace process and of using last week's triple suicide bombing in a Jerusalem shopping street as a pretext to halt the scheduled handover of more West Bank



Arab suspicions increase as Secretary of State echoes Israeli demand for tougher security, Christopher Walker writes

land. Mr Netanyahu argued that he remained committed to the peace process, which many of his right-wing supporters want scrapped. He turned to Ms Albright and said: "If you are able to persuade the Palestinian Authority to wage war against the terrorists, then I believe the road will be open to continue the peace process to a successful conclusion and I am convinced we can achieve peace."

How far away that goal now is was demonstrated by the massive security operation thrown up to protect Ms Albright during her mission and to prevent further suicide attacks, threatened by both Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

In the largest West Bank city of Nablus, militant Palestinian hostility to Ms Albright was shown when some 200 women affiliated with Hamas

burnt the US flag and distributed handbills depicting the Statue of Liberty with her head, and sticking a sword into the Palestinian people.

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Arafat Cabinet member and a prominent Palestinian moderate, was sharply critical of how the US mission had begun, accusing the Ms Albright of displaying "a wholeheartedly one-sided approach". She added: "At some point, the United States has to decide whether it wants to serve only Israeli interests or whether it wants to serve the interests of peace in the region."

Mrs Ashrawi, speaking in Ramallah, the West Bank town where Ms Albright will today meet Yasser Arafat, was echoing a theme heard throughout the Arab world and threatening to add more

obstacles to Ms Albright's slim chances of achieving a breakthrough.

Broader Arab suspicion of pro-Israeli bias in the mission, seen by many diplomats as long overdue, was voiced by Egypt's main state-owned daily *Al-Ahram*. The newspaper gave a warning: "There are implications that Albright's visit will concentrate on the burial of the corpse of the Oslo [peace] agreements, and the formation of new guarantees for the safety of Israel."

Many independent observers said that Ms Albright had little chance but to adopt a strongly anti-terrorist, pro-security note in the light of the five suicide attacks in Jerusalem since July 30 which have left 20 Israelis dead and forged a national mood of deep scepticism about peace moves.

In an effort to appear even-handed, which even State Department correspondents on her plane dismissed as insufficient, Ms Albright urged Israel not to take unilateral action that undermined its 1993 peace deal. The country should "refrain from actions that undermine confidence and trust", she said.

Golden advice: President Weizman of Israel said he had suggested to Ms Albright that America lock Israel and the PLO into marathon peace talks. "We spoke about Camp David... I told her that I propose you do something similar — but at Fort Knox," he said. (Reuters)



Madeleine Albright, accompanied by President Weizman, visits victims of last week's suicide bombers

Arabs blamed for pig posters

Jerusalem: A Jewish woman who incensed Muslims by drawing posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig pleaded not guilty yesterday to a series of charges, including insulting religious

feelings. Tatiana Suszkin's lawyer claimed that the Palestinians themselves copied the poster to magnify its effect. Ms Suszkin, 27, admits drawing the poster, but "not putting them up". (AP)

Palestinians wary of visitor's Jewish roots

By Christopher Walker

DISPLAYING remarkable energy after a 6am arrival in Israel, Madeleine Albright was quick to stamp her own forceful diplomatic style on a Middle East mission described as her toughest challenge since taking over as US Secretary of State.

Meeting 11 victims of Jerusalem's recent suicide bombings at the city's Hadassah Mount Scopus Hospital, she was asked by Daniel Miller, 19, a seminar student from Miami who suffered wounds in both legs and arms, to remember the bombing victims when "you go to embrace [Yasser] Arafat".

"I do not intend to embrace Arafat," Ms Albright replied in an undiplomatic reference to her meeting in the West Bank town of Ramallah later today with the Palestinian leader, who himself recently provoked Israeli fury when he publicly embraced one of the leaders of Hamas, the Islamic group responsible for last Thursday's triple bombing.

Inevitably Ms Albright was swiftly reminded of her own recently discovered Jewish

ancestors, which have further deepened Palestinian suspicions of her alleged pro-Israeli bias. Czech-born, she was raised a Roman Catholic and later became an Episcopalian. She was not told of her family's Jewish heritage by her parents and learnt about it only in February.

"Hitler gassed and burnt your grandparents and millions of others because they were Jews," said newspaper advertisements placed by the right-wing Israeli group Women in Green which mounted a noisy demonstration outside the US Consulate General in West Jerusalem yesterday. "Stop Oslo now. Stop Oslo now," shouted the demonstrators, who tried to win her sympathy by likening Mr Arafat to Hitler and claiming that the PLO leader had "the same virulent hatred of Jews".

Another advertisement, placed by five more right-wing pressure groups anxious to halt the peace process begun in 1993 with a ceremony on the White House lawn, informed Ms Albright: "The

world made note of your promise not to forget the betrayal in Czechoslovakia, when Hitler demanded 'land for peace' and Chamberlain gave him the homeland of your parents for the sake of 'peace in our time'."

As with all visiting dignitaries, Ms Albright was taken by her Israeli hosts yesterday afternoon to Yad Vashem, the memorial on the outskirts of Jerusalem to the six million Holocaust victims. Most visitors are shaken by the memorial, but officials predicted that Ms Albright's would be a more harrowing personal experience than most: a group of Holocaust researchers has announced that it will present her with a list of names of her own relatives killed in the Nazi genocide, including her paternal grandparents.

Iris Rosenberg, a Yad Vashem official, said that Ms Albright would be given the identities of Czech Jews deported to Nazi death camps. "On these lists, the names of her relatives appear," Ms Rosenberg added, declining to provide further details.

Bremen's stolen Rembrandt and Dürer turn up in US

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A JAPANESE man has been arrested in New York after trying to sell \$10 million (£6.3 million) worth of stolen paintings, including works by Rembrandt and Albrecht Dürer, to undercover police agents. The works belong to the Bremen Museum in Germany, where they were last seen in 1943.

Police have charged Masatsugu Koga, 60, with possessing and selling stolen artwork. Mr Koga says that he bought the paintings from employees of the National Museum of Azerbaijan, in Baku. The case came to light after German officials alerted US authorities to Mr Koga's "portfolio", curators from the Bremen Museum helped the police in his arrest.

Mr Koga's story began in April, when he approached the German Embassy in Tokyo offering to sell 12 paintings for \$12 million. He claimed that the works belonged to his family and that he needed the money for "a transplant". One of the paintings was Dürer's *Women Bathing*, valued conservatively at \$6 million. Another, Rembrandt's *Standing Woman with Raised Hands*, is valued at \$2 million.

Suspicious embassy officials sent details of the pictures to Germany and it soon became obvious that Mr Koga's collection was part of the scores of paintings lost from the Bremen Museum in 1943. The records show that they were removed for safe-

keeping, but there the trail went cold.

The museum has long believed that the paintings were stolen by Soviet troops in 1945. That would explain how they ended up in Azerbaijan, until recently a part of the former Soviet Union. The German Embassy in Tokyo stalled Mr Koga for three months, during which the foundations for his arrest were laid. Mr Koga said that the paintings were

kept in a safe in New York, so that city's police and customs were put on alert. In July, Mr Koga and German officials agreed that there should be an inspection of the paintings in New York, with a view to a possible sale.

Last month Mr Koga was arrested in a Manhattan hotel. The Rembrandt, the Dürer and four other paintings were recovered. Six others are still missing.

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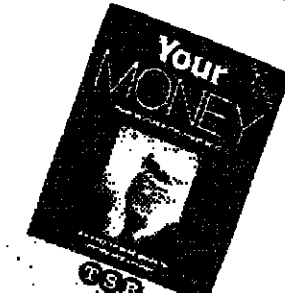
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Santer calls for Brussels to vet EU jobs policies

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union states should submit their job-creation performance for grading in Brussels as part of a drive to harmonise national employment and taxation policies, Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, said yesterday.

Mr Santer was backing proposals by Luxembourg, France and other states to give teeth to the latest EU effort to join forces to bring down the region's chronic unemployment, now at 18 million. Finance ministers are due to review options in Luxembourg tomorrow, before an EU jobs summit on November 21. EU leaders are worried that the continental anguish over jobs could upset the approach to monetary union, due to start in January 1999.

On the face of it, the employment drive meshes well with Tony Blair's pledge to make employment the top priority of Britain's six-month term in the EU presidency, which follows Luxembourg's in January. Mr Santer echoed Mr Blair's desire to promote a "people's Europe", saying that the EU must seize the opportunity of a jobs policy to "reconcile the citizen with Europe". He also called for cuts in employment taxes and the completion of the single market, both British goals.

However, the scene is being set for a clash between Mr Blair's "real world" emphasis on the need for flexible labour markets, as voiced in his

speech on Tuesday to the TUC, and continental determination, led by France, to lock in the costly social policies that are deemed to drive up unemployment. Britain's unemployment rate is just over half that of France, which stands at 12.5 per cent. Germany's is more than 11.5 per cent.

The aim of Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, backed by Mr Santer, is for EU states to agree to harmonise their employment policies, submitting their record to the Commission for measurement against an agreed yardstick. Four performers would be advised to mend their ways. Mr Santer compared the scheme to the practice in which the EU states report their economic performance for measurement against the "Maastricht criteria" for monetary union. The job guidelines "must be as specific as possible," he said.

Mr Juncker wants to include "social criteria" as one of the measures, as well as such things as spending on training and levels of payroll taxes. He has already attacked the British approach. "We feel that this mindless chase towards excessive deregulation has to be stopped," he said last week. France, which called for the jobs summit and insisted on the insertion of an "employment chapter" in the Treaty of Amsterdam, has just told the Commission that it wants "greater harmony in social

and fiscal policies in order to avoid distortions of competitiveness that are damaging to employment". Pierre Moscovici, European Minister in the French Government, also wants EU states to commit themselves to mopping up unemployment through government-financed schemes for public sector jobs of the kind just introduced by Paris.

Such thinking meets little favour in Germany and other states which are opposed to such interventionist measures. Bonn is fighting a rearguard action against France's efforts to create an area of economic management to balance the power of the future European central bank. However, there is widespread resistance in Germany and elsewhere to Britain's approach to social cost-cutting.

Another battleground was sketched by Mr Santer when he backed plans to protect jobs by harmonising taxation policy. He attacked "beggar-thy-neighbour" practices in which low taxes were used by some countries to destroy jobs in others. Luxembourg and the Commission are pressing for a standard approach to taxation on the ground that some states are using low levels to unfair advantage. Little progress is expected on this front.

Mr Santer added yesterday that monetary union is beyond the point of no return and he called for an end to the "diatribe of doubt" against the project.

Goethe scholars dispute gay claim

BY MICHAEL BINYON

LITERARY scholars in Britain and Germany yesterday cast doubt on claims made by a German biographer that Goethe, Germany's most celebrated poet and writer, was a practising homosexual.

The claim was made earlier this week by the German author of a new biography which says that the legend that Goethe was a ladies' man was "pure invention". Karl Hugo Pruys says in a book to be published on Monday that Goethe had close relationships only with men. He was terrified of women, who left him cold.

His claim that the truth has been covered up by literary history elicited scepticism. Goethe, who lived from 1749 to 1832, is a revered figure, celebrated for love poems as well as his poem *Faust* and the tragic novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*.

Herr Pruys said from his reading of 2,500 letters that Goethe showed passionate attachment to his male friends; his first love affair was with the philosopher, Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi. "You felt that it was bliss for me to be the object of your love," he wrote to Jacobi in one letter, which he begged him not to show to anyone.

German scholars said that there was often misunderstanding nowadays of the intense but platonic male friendships that were common in the 18th century.

Dr Nicholas Boyle, the British expert on the poet, said there was no recognition by other homosexual literary figures at the time that Goethe was one of their circle.



Monica Vitti plays Modesty Blaise in the 1966 film. Her autobiography has become a set text for schools

Italian film star's sensual memoirs become set text

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AFTER four decades as a star of the Italian cinema and an object of male desire, the actress Monica Vitti has emerged at the age of 66 as a best-selling author, with her latest work about to become a set text in Italian schools and universities.

A Bed is Like a Rose (Il Letto è Una Rosa) has already sold 20,000 copies. Now the book, an autobiography with some frank passages on sex and sensuality, has been adopted by Italian secondary schools and universities for courses on modern Italian drama, film and literature.

Vitti's reminiscences might be considered unsuitable by some parents because of their discussion of sexual feelings. On the other hand, the advice she offers on the way sex can be simultaneously sublime and ridiculous will strike a chord with many adolescents.

Sensuality, Vitti observes, is "a delicate matter". "Sensuality is like a feather held against your lips with a light breath; if you suddenly sneeze it will fly out of the window, and then it's thank you and goodbye."

Sensuality is a sensitive and private concept. "You can also find it in the sun, in the movement of running horse, in a child... you feel wonderful, and then it only takes one second for this feeling to disappear."

Vitti told *La Repubblica* she was "surprised and delighted" that her book had become an instant classic. Her first book, *Seven Petticoats*, was also autobiographical. She said she had written the new book in longhand, "and it is all my own work. Its success is the

most wonderful thing that has happened to me, a thousand times better than winning an Oscar."

The book's title comes from an Italian nursery rhyme which her mother used to sing to her to get her to sleep. "But as an adult you learn that sleeping is a secondary activity in bed," Vitti writes. "When you're in bed wonderful things happen — and terrible things too. It's a place of love, or a place where you are abandoned; a place where you talk to your lover, or a place where you argue; a place where you love or hate, laugh and cry, a place where you remember some things and forget others, a place where couples pledge eternal love and also betray each other."

She describes her childhood, and her period as a struggling drama student in Rome. She reveals that her parents went to Mexico while she was an aspiring 16-year-old actress, and cut themselves off from her. When they returned they were astonished to find she was an award winning theatre and film actress with a worldwide reputation. She worked with Antonioni and Buñuel, and her films include *L'Aventura* (1959), *Red Desert* (1964) and *Modesty Blaise* (1966).

Asked about her writing methods, Vitti said she was "always starving" the minute she sat down to write. "I'm always having to get up to make myself a ham roll." But the hunger was essentially emotional, she said: "I feel the same way when I fall in love, or when I have to do an audition. I don't put on weight."

France pays £1m for Voltaire château

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS



Voltaire's château, where he wrote *Candide*, has finally been sold to the state

THE château where the great French writer Voltaire wrote *Candide* and spent the last 20 years of his life has been bought by the French state and will be turned into a cultural centre focusing on human rights.

The château at Ferney-Voltaire near the Swiss border — his criticism of French royal autocracy meant he spent much time outside France or

near its border for a quick escape — became the focus of a furious cultural row when it went up for sale two years ago amid claims that France's heritage was being squandered.

The previous Government refused to buy the property but in a surprise announcement this week Catherine Trautmann, the new Culture Minister, finally announced that the French state would step in. The decision may have been prompted more by economics than any respect for Voltaire's

legacy. The furious controversy and the repeated insistence by local residents that the property be refurbished and opened to the public may have discouraged other buyers.

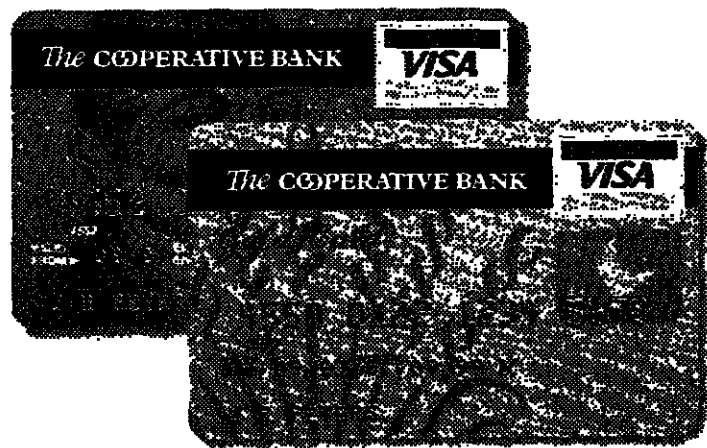
The state has acquired the château and its grounds for 10 million francs (£1 million), a quarter of the asking price. That suggests that from the point of view of the Culture Ministry and French "Voltaireans", if not the vendors — "All is for the best, in the best of possible worlds".



Voltaire: had to live near border

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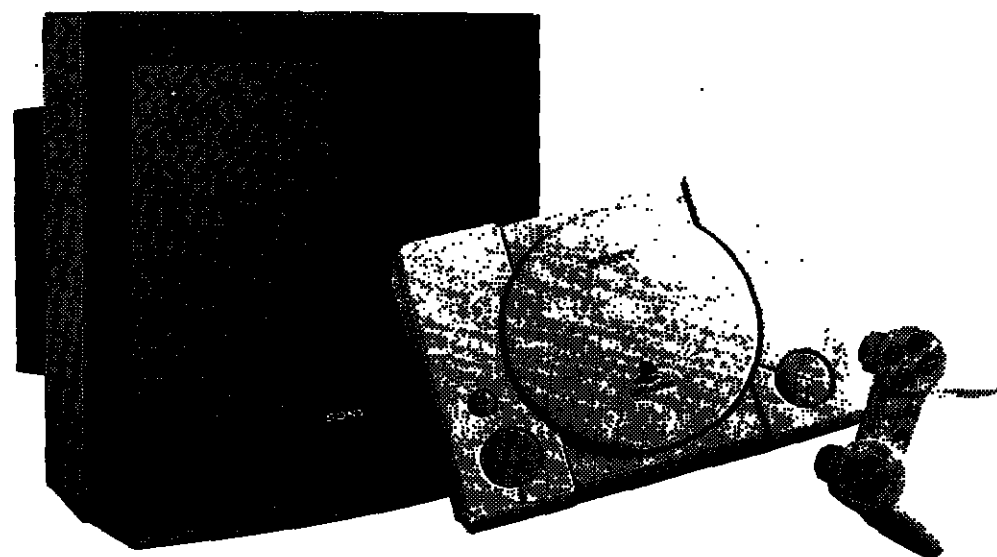
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How heavy drinkers court peril



Dr Thomas Stuttford on acute pancreatitis and Jeffrey Bernard; the hazards of working in a dry-cleaners; the rats that plague London; the people who 'experience' colours; and new guidelines about the use of statin drugs in the prevention of heart disease

More than 30 years ago Jeffrey Bernard, who died last week, developed an attack of acute pancreatitis. Thereafter Jeffrey Bernard was "unwell."

Thirty per cent of cases of pancreatitis are attributed to over-indulgence in alcohol, and 40 per cent to gallstones. In 20 per cent of cases doctors cannot trace the origin of the trouble, and the other ten per cent are the result of a variety of causes ranging from a reaction to drugs to injury, or, in rare instances, invasive investigations in hospital.

A patient with acute pancreatitis complains of severe upper abdominal pain. The pain, which comes on suddenly, may be an unwelcome sequel to a heavy night's drinking, particularly when it has been associated with a rich dinner. As with all pancreatic pain, it is felt in the back as well as the abdomen.

The pain is accompanied by nausea and vomiting, and on examination the patient's abdomen is tender, the temperature is raised and the pulse is racing. Doctors become particularly concerned if the patient shows signs of shock and has low blood pressure, breathlessness, a dwindling level of consciousness and a failure to pass urine.

One unusual characteristic sign of acute pancreatitis is a brownish-green discoloura-

tion of the skin around the belly button and on the side of the abdomen.

The pancreatic gland is tucked away near the stomach and duodenum. It secretes the majority of the digestive enzymes and incorporates an endocrine gland which produces insulin. Most British people never think about the pancreas until it is served on their plate as a sweetbread delicacy. Conversely, on the Continent the pancreas, and its behaviour, tends to be a preoccupation, together with the liver.

There are two forms of acute pancreatitis: in the milder condition the pancreatic gland merely swells, whereas in the more severe form the tissue becomes necrotic and bleeds. The mortality of the milder form is less than 5 per cent but it produces severe upper abdominal pain and an increase in the blood levels of two enzymes.

In the more serious form there are gross changes in the gland with tissue destruction and haemorrhage. The tissue destruction and the haemorrhage is caused by the gland's own enzymes, which dissolve the tissue of the gland and destroy the elastic fibres hold-

ing its blood vessels together. The body is digesting itself.

Surveys on the death rate in acute pancreatitis show that it varies between ten and 50 per cent. The likely outcome can be estimated by the changes that occur in several biochemical factors in the blood — but the age of the patient is also important.

Bernard's comparative youth at the time of the attack, he was then 34, would have been in his favour, but patients over 55 cannot expect to fare as well.

Patients frequently develop, as Bernard did, chronic pancreatitis and with it the possibility of suffering complications of diabetes, renal failure and narrowed arteries.

Seventy five per cent of chronic pancreatitis is a result of prolonged heavy drinking. A working rule is that chronic pancreatitis is unlikely in a man who takes less than 80 grams of alcohol a day, or a woman 40 grams daily for less than ten years. The type of drink is irrelevant — it is the amount that matters.

Chronic pancreatitis is not in itself lethal, but it can lead to cardiovascular disease and there is a small increase in the incidence of cancer of the



Diagnosed with acute pancreatitis in the 1960s, Jeffrey Bernard refused to change his alcohol-fuelled lifestyle

pancreas. The diabetes that afflicted Bernard was probably a consequence of his acute attack 30 years earlier.

The pain of chronic pancreatitis is accompanied by diarrhoea and persistent wind, resulting in a distended abdomen. Because of the poor absorption of food the patient becomes unusually thin.

The bad news is that sufferers should stop drinking entirely. The good news is that enzymes which can correct so

many of the digestive malfunctions, such as wind, diarrhoea, and weight loss, are now available in an improved form so that the necessary dosage is easier and more efficient.

Marketed as Creon, these capsules contain enteric-coated mini-microspheres, known to sweet lovers as hundreds and thousands, composed of the enzymes. On the Continent gourmet who worry about pancreatic function take them after a good meal.

Why some see red on Monday

STEPHANIE Martin had learnt the days of the week by the time she was four, but she knew her colours before that.

Her parents were surprised when she told them each day had a colour. That, for instance, the word Monday was orange-red. As Stephanie grew older, she found all objects and words made her see a particular colour in her mind — one that may have been quite different from the colour she actually saw with her eyes. This is known as synaesthesia.

Stephanie is now 27, has no psychiatric condition, obtained first-class honours in her first degree and has added several other degrees to it since. She has a high-powered job, is well-orientated, and doesn't like being told she "suffers from" synaesthesia. She enjoys her additional sense, and prefers to say she "experiences" it.

When, for example, Stephanie sees the word "door-knob", or thinks of one, she has a sensation of a muddy-pink colour, even though she knows the handle is brass or silver. The name Tom, rather unflatteringly, is brown. But, fortunately, the colour is determined by name alone, not by character — all Toms are brown to Stephanie.

People with synaesthesia do not all experience the same colour for the same word. But whatever colour they experience for an object, it remains the same for life.

Synaesthesia occurs when different parts of the brain involved with perception are too close to each other. It is inherited through the female line and more women have it than men. There is no treatment, but Stephanie says: "If there were, I wouldn't have it. To me, synaesthesia is a plus."

Guidance for the use of heart drugs

COMMON SENSE, and financial stringency, influenced new Department of Health guidelines on the use of statin drugs in the prevention of heart disease, recommendations reproduced in the journal *Prescriber*. The Health Department recommends that changes in lifestyle and control of blood pressure are more important than lowering cholesterol levels with the statin group of drugs. The authorities, however, advocate that a

statin drug, though expensive, should be considered for prescription in three instances. They are recommended for use after a heart attack if the patient's cholesterol is greater than 4.8mmol/l, if patients with angina or coronary or other arterial disease have a cholesterol over 5.5mmol/l and for patients without existing heart disease but who have a high risk of developing it, if they have a cholesterol of more than 5.5mmol/l.

Danger lurks at the cleaners

Have pity on the pale minion who disappears behind the curtains in the dry-cleaners to fetch your clean suit. Forgive him if the buttons are broken, or the stain on the jacket still shows. The people who clean your suit may be risking cancer of the larynx, oesophagus, mouth and even stomach.

Recent research, published in the journal of *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, suggests that exposure to perchloroethylene, a solvent used in dry-cleaning which is already known to cause cancers in animals, may also

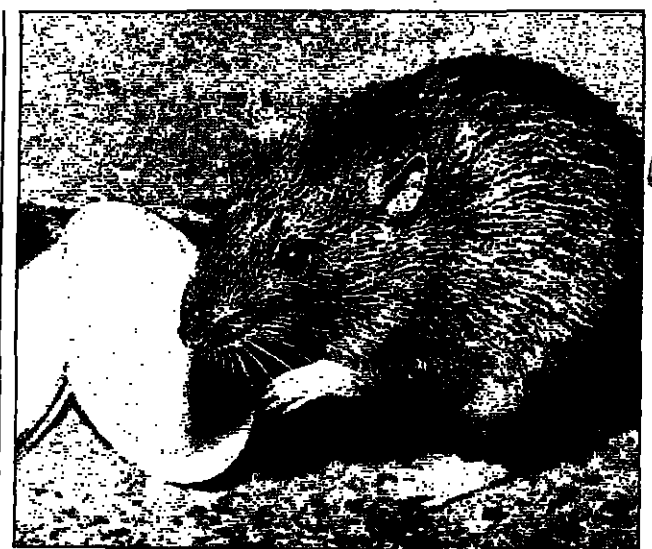
of various cancers. Pott's work was done on the effect of soot on the skin of the scrotum, and he published his treatise in 1775. Before his research, children who had been forced to climb the chimneys they swept were later reviled when in adulthood they developed scrotal ulcers — assumed to be a venereal disease. Since 1775, and particularly over the past 120 years, the cancer-giving properties of many chemicals have been analysed, and the harmful constituents isolated.

A characteristic of occupational cancers is that the disease tends to be multi-tumoured. Cancers also affect a younger age group than most other malignancies, although there is a long incubation period. For this reason some workers in an unhealthy environment cannot be sure that leaving it will safeguard his future health.

In most occupational cancers the malignancy is nearly always preceded by a pre-cancerous lesion. Earlier research concentrated on dye workers and those exposed to various oils. Exposure to oils produced skin cancers whereas dye workers developed tumours of the renal tract and bladder. The average time between exposure and the formation of the tumour was 12 years. In dye workers it was thought that the carcinogen was absorbed both through the skin and from inhaled fumes.

Constant vigilance has improved the health of workers and reduced the risks they run. Chemicals, however, are becoming more complex, making the detective work of occupational health physicians more difficult.

Percival Pott, the famous 18th-century physician, was the first doctor to study the effect of following different occupations on the incidence



Rats transmit the bacteria which cause food poisoning

Pied Piper needed

IN POLAND a plague of rats is rampaging through the recently flooded towns, in Nottingham BT workers are refusing to repair cables because of the number of rats, and correspondents to *The Times* have written about rats that have popped up into their lavatory bowls, or sought sanctuary in the cistern.

Chelsea is now developing as many restaurants as an Italian piazza and this, together with the warm weather, may have provided a bonanza for the rat population.

Although it seems that some women take pleasure in keeping rats (men apparently prefer mice), they can carry a variety of diseases. Rats transmit the bacteria which cause food poisoning, they spread type B typhus and leptospirosis (Weil's disease). Weil's is spread by a spirochaete in the rat's urine, and results in jaundice, headache, severe high fever and renal

failure. Two other spirochaetes are the cause of rat bite fever. Typhus is more common in America and Europe. In this disease an oozy red spot appears at the site where the rat-borne organism gains access to the body, lymphatic glands become inflamed and ulcerate, but the major danger is that the discharge can be transmitted to the eyes.

A spokeswoman for Chelsea & Kensington Council said: "The number of sightings of rats has doubled over the past ten years but resident officers think that residential properties are as much at risk of infestations as restaurants. What matters in these cases is the quality of the drains. Thames Water looks after the sewers while we investigate surface outbreaks and almost always eradicate the source. Chelsea & Kensington rats are still sensitive to the poisons we use."

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He would have loved her well

I last spoke to Dodi on the Wednesday before his death. He called me from the boat. Our conversation was brief because he was very concerned that the press was tapping into his cellular phone. He told me that he was happier then he had ever been in his life. I believed him, not just because he told me so but because I knew he did not need or want anyone else around.

Dodi knew Diana, Princess of Wales, only socially before the holiday in France this year. When he got back, he told me that he had had the most wonderful time with her, and that her sons were fantastic. But they did not begin their romance until later, when they could be together in private.

This was the very thing that I wanted and longed for him to have in his life — to love someone so deeply that he could feel secure enough not to need his other friends around. Usually on his holidays he would call me and others to join him to spend time with him on the boat. Over the past few weeks he had found the love he had longed for all his life and just wanted to be alone with her.

He told me that they were returning to London on Sunday and that we would see him on Monday. On Saturday evening, just before I went to bed, I turned on CNN and heard about the accident. As soon as the Princess was mentioned, my first thought was to phone Dodi to see if she was all right. I couldn't believe the words I was hearing when they said that her companion, Dodi Fayed, was dead. "No, not my Dodi, my beloved friend, the man who had been like a brother for 26 years, it's not possible," I thought. And as the hours unfolded, so did the dreadful news that the Princess was dead also. That night, seeing the pictures of the car mangled, the terrible pain of it all was like the worst nightmare.

Dodi was obsessive about safety — he hated fast cars. The reports that he would have urged the driver to go faster are absurd. He was terrified of speed and so cautious that in the past five years he didn't even like to drive himself and was fastidious about who drove him. When my husband, Fred, drove anywhere, he would become worried, even at normal speed, urging him to be careful, and shouting: "We're not in hurry you know."

Barbara Broccoli, daughter of Bond film-maker Cubby Broccoli, was a close friend of Dodi Fayed. Here she talks about an 'absolute gentleman'

He was even more protective about his friends. Whenever I arranged to meet him he would send a driver, and ring me in the car to check that I was all right. Once he even refused to let me and my five-year-old daughter, Angelica, get into a lift because he thought it looked unsafe.

He was also paranoid about drinking and safety. Two weeks before the accident, Dodi and Fred met in Soho to see a private viewing of the new film, *Contact*. When Fred mentioned that he had had two beers in a pub on Dean Street beforehand, Dodi would not even let him wait on the street for a taxi, in case something happened to him. He insisted on taking Fred all the way home to Chelsea and walked him into the house.

The footage of Dodi and the Princess at the back entrance to the Ritz on the night they died shows Dodi face to face with Henri Paul. Had Dodi smelt even the faintest whiff of alcohol on his breath, it would have been inconceivable for him to get into that car. There is just no way he would have done it.

The only thing Dodi would have wanted would be to protect the Princess. All they wanted was to have a quiet dinner alone together.

When Dodi and I met, I was 11, and he was 16. My sister, Tina, and I met him through friends at the American School in London. Dodi, who loved the cinema, used to visit my father's film sets. We became part of our family and he became part of ours. Through us, Cubby and Mohamed became friends. Since that early age, Dodi and I never lost contact. We spoke regularly, several times a week.

As a teenager, he was painfully shy, timid and softly spoken. As he got older he became a great socialiser and a brilliant sportsman and was rather sophisticated, but he never lost his shyness. That combined with his good looks and an almost childlike gentleness,

made him incredibly attractive to women. To label him as a playboy is completely inaccurate. He did date many beautiful women but they chased him — not the other way round. Despite their attentions he never became pretentious or arrogant.

Dodi felt very at ease in female company and loved to lavish affection on those he cared about. He was an absolute gentleman — caring, thoughtful, polite and extremely generous. He was the kind of person who would remember your favourite things when you came over for dinner. Friends of mine who met him only briefly would tell me how five or six years later when he bumped into them he would remember them and invite them to join him.

The fact that Dodi was an intensely private person has only fuelled speculation about his love life. He was very, very discreet about all his relationships and fiercely loyal to those who trusted him. Even when ex-girlfriends were talking to the press in June, he tried to rise above the accusations.

Kelly Fisher's story of her supposedly broken engagement hurt him deeply, but he tried to shrug it off. I met Kelly on June 18 this year. It was my birthday and Dodi had organised a dinner for me at Annabel's. I spoke to Kelly at length, she seemed pleasant. I was one of Dodi's dearest and oldest friends — if they had been planning to marry, one of them would have told me that night.

Dodi was a romantic. He led from the heart. Even when he split up from his wife of eight months, Suzanne Gregard, it ended amicably and Dodi wasn't negative about her. He was philosophical instead.

In recent years Dodi had become quieter. He enjoyed family occasions, watching films, intimate dinners and staying at home with friends.

Dodi often joined my family for



Barbara Broccoli and Dodi Fayed: "He knew that he had had a privileged life and he appreciated it, but he didn't flaunt it"

Thanksgiving. I remember one occasion in LA when he left an enormous bouquet of flowers in the back of his car. He said: "These are for your mother, but give them to her when I'm gone." He was too shy to bring them into the house.

Dodi also loved dogs. Once he had a neurotic, scrappy little collie which he rescued from the pound. His vocal cords had been removed so it could not bark. He was so upset at its mistreatment that he brought it home and fed it by hand and slept with it. He arranged his life around that dog. We used to tease him about it.

The suggestion that Dodi wasted his life is a disgrace. He knew that he had had a privileged life and he appreciated it, but didn't flaunt it.

At the age of 23, he set up his own production company, Allied Stars, and had produced six movies by the time he died — *Breaking Glass*, *Chariots of Fire*, *FIX Murder By Illusion*, *FIX2 The Deadly Art of Illusion*, *Hook* and *The Scarlet Letter*.

Chariots of Fire, which he co-produced, would not have been made without him. But he was modest about his contribution. At the 1981 Oscars, when *Chariots of*

Fire won Best Film, and David Putnam, the producer, was preparing to go on stage, I said: "Go on Dodi, get up, it's your film too." He just sat there quietly and answered: "No BB, I'll go next time."

Dodi was also deeply involved in his father's empire. As Mohamed Al Fayed's eldest son, he had an incredible responsibility towards his family. Mohamed and Dodi worshipped each other.

It is too painful to speculate about what would have happened had they lived. I used to say: "Dodi, you have to settle down and have a family of your own one day." He

would reply: "My life is already blessed with so many children — my little sisters and brothers, and Angelica." But he did want a close relationship with someone, and was looking out for the right person to love.

I am glad in a way that even I didn't know very much about their last week together. Whatever it was like for them, it will remain sacred because no one can talk about it. But I do know Dodi, and in those weeks before they died he would have loved her well.

Barbara Broccoli was talking to Bridget Harrison.

The making of a myth

On February 4, 1986, the world's two most revered living Roman Catholics united in feeding the dying and destitute of Calcutta. The Pope went to Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying on the third day of his pilgrimage to India. Calcutta was the Pope's first major port of call after his two-day state visit to Delhi, and he spent more than an hour at Kalighat, indications of the importance he attached to Mother Teresa's mission.

Officially, the Pope was guest of honour, yet after the reception, there was Mother Teresa with the military and police surrounding her, walking along the red carpet towards the exit. And they were all bowing, adulation is the

In the final extract of her biography, Anne Sebba reveals the contradictions in Mother Teresa's very human drive

only word I can think of," recalled Sister Cyril of the Rainbow School. "As we walked out together I noticed a Black Maria standing outside, the inside was completely carpeted and there was an armchair for Mother Teresa to sit in... the inside was beautifully done up for her."

Sister Cyril went on to say how this episode taught her the special kind of suffering God has devised for Mother Teresa. "That she is such a very, very humble person, so totally given to God and to the poor, and yet she has to accept

amicably the kind of adulation she gets from officialdom and from everybody in the city."

Mother Teresa insisted that she did suffer constant humiliations, the relentless media exposure being the main one. Referring to the coverage of the Nobel Peace Prize, she often said: "For that publicity alone, I should go straight to heaven." But to the world, it seemed one long round of publicity and adulation. If it was so hateful, why do the sides of her ambulances now read "Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity", not "Missionaries of Charity", as they used to?

"I am nothing," Mother Teresa said constantly, "nothing but a pencil in God's hands." But how could a person, convinced that they had been chosen to do God's work, also believe that they were nothing, unless that work had no value? Was it wise for any congregation to have so much publicity around one person? Was it possible that she could have remained a humble nun?

Another woman whose desire to help the underprivileged was carried out in the glare of sometimes unwelcome publicity was Diana, Princess of Wales. There was an immediate rapport between two women. The Princess identified with Mother Teresa's philosophy and was known to be an admirer. Mother Teresa said of her: "Oh, she is like a daughter to me." On the marriage break-up: "I think it is a sad story. Diana is such a sad soul. She gives so much love but she needs to get it back. You know what? It is good that it is over. Nobody was happy anyway." Not surprisingly, the article sparked a controversy. Mother Teresa

was forced to issue a lengthy "clarification", which emphasised that the "teachings of Jesus Christ on the indissolubility of marriage" have been the basis of my lifelong opposition to divorce. My love and fervent prayers are with the Royal Family at this difficult time... The family that prays together stays together."



Mother Teresa and the Pope

accepted it. Many people contributed to building the myth. In India, Mother Teresa was a goddess, as well as a saint in Western terms.

The ability to offer people the absolute certainty that you know best is a key element making for powerful spiritual leaders. Anthony Storr, an authority on gurus, has identified other traits, such as intolerance of criticism, the need for an enemy and a rallying call against that enemy. Some of these characteristics might well be said to apply to her.

She has entered the lexicon now. Phrases such as "We can't all be Mother Teresas" need no explanation. But they do not begin to fathom why a simple Albanian captured the imagination of the world. "She had a sort of shamelessness," was how one Catholic Sister described her, a phrase that pinpoints the essence of her very human drive.

● Mother Teresa — Beyond the Image, by Anne Sebba, Widenfeld & Nicholson, £20. To order, call The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459 and save £5 on the RRP

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Scotland opts for optimism

We heard the worst and can live with it, says Magnus Linklater

Scotland will vote today in a spirit of optimism and adventure rather than pessimism and caution. It has listened to the stark warnings about its great constitutional experiment, and — if the polls are anything to go by — has decided to risk it anyway. It has not perhaps gone overboard, but on balance has judged that the glass is being offered is half full rather than half empty. Most important of all, it seems likely to turn out in respectable numbers to vote.

The referendum campaign has been a breakneck affair: three weeks of argument crammed into less than 100 hours. It has been like watching a speeded-up movie in which plot, character and final denouement spool past almost too fast for the eye to catch. Each night has seen two or even three debates on television; the newspapers have carried little else; words have poured forth at a bewildering pace. The Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, now talks so rapidly and with such passion as he warns to his task that at times I am reminded of the orgasm scene from *When Harry Met Sally* in which the stunned onlooker tells the waiter "I'll have what she's having".

Part of Mr Dewar's enthusiasm must stem from a sense that the tide has begun to run strongly for the "yes" campaign. It began on Monday with Tony Blair's arrival in Scotland, and his appeal to the Scots to seize the moment or lose it for a generation. He stressed the need for self-confidence and self-reliance, and picked on a couple of slogans which, however hackneyed, seemed to fit the mood. One was "trust us and trust yourselves". The other was "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" (omitting to add Roosevelt's subsequent words "...nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror").

The fact that he came in the aftermath of Diana's funeral was not without its effect. The memory of the role he had played in the arrangements for that day was still fresh; he brought with him more than an aura of "the people's Prime Minister".

At the same time the "no" campaign was beginning to lose momentum. Arguments that had loomed large and forbidding in the week before Diana's death now began to sound irritating and repetitive. The warnings from influential figures such as Sir Bruce Patullo, the Governor of the Bank of Scotland — that extra taxation would cost Scotland business and undermine the economy — suffered from two disadvantages: apart from being restated in various forms, they could not be developed; you either believed them or you didn't. In addition, they were Tory arguments, the same ones which had been endlessly deployed in the course of the general election campaign and which had cost them every seat in Scotland.

The "no" campaign was not, of course, just a Conservative

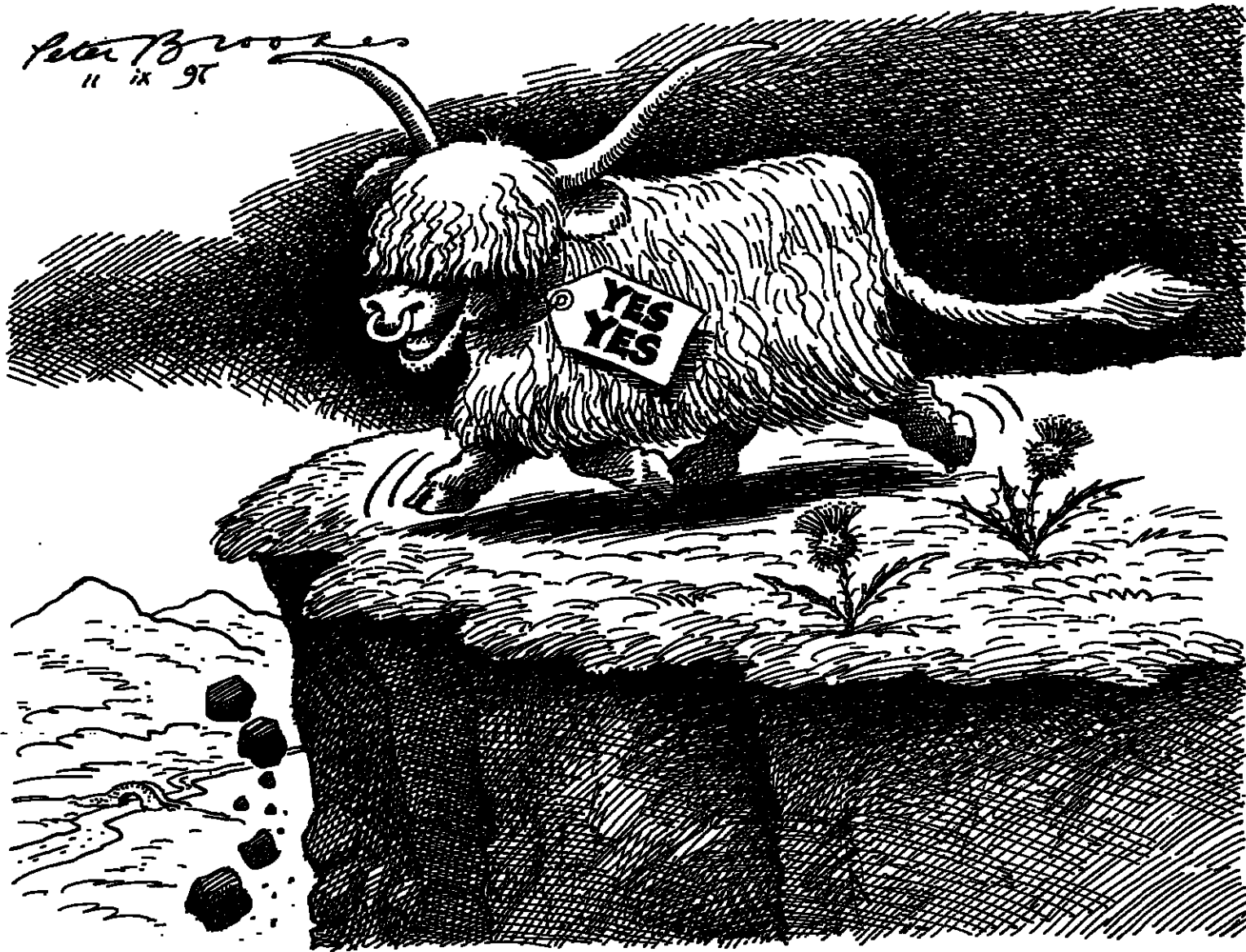
mouthpiece, but it sounded like one. This was a party without representation in Scotland speaking from a text that had already lost it a general election. The organisers clearly found it uphill work. Michael Ancram is as Scottish as the next man, but with an English accent, parading arguments that had last been heard from the lips of the defeated Michael Forsyth, he seemed almost permanently on-the-back-foot. Even William Hague, who gave a robust speech in Glasgow on Tuesday night, could not conceal the fragility of the Tory case. At the heart of what he had to say lay a long series of "no": devolution would make no difference to schools, to hospitals, to jobs or business. The tartan tax would lead to foreign investors saying no to Scotland. It would have a negative effect on the Union. What all this betrayed was not just a bleak view of Scotland's prospects on its own, but a profound distrust of the people who would be running Scotland's new parliament.

This was finally the theme to be seized on and developed in the last hours of the campaign, and I watched that happening in an absorbing debate at the Royal High School in Edinburgh on Tuesday night. The audience was largely from the Scottish business community and it expressed its collective alarm at what was being offered. In the end, that alarm resolved itself into one principal complaint: whatever Labour's promises on tax, business and the economy, the men and women to be elected as Scottish MPs would simply not be up to scratch. There were not enough people of sufficient calibre to do the job. They would be second-raters, probably socialists, very possibly from corrupt West of Scotland constituencies. They would not be sound.

Here at last was the nub of it: the "no" campaign was against a Scottish parliament because it would be run by Scots. It took only a short-cut for this to be exposed as anti-Scottish, betraying a lack of confidence in the very nation itself. By the end of the evening, what had begun as a divided audience had swung round behind a fairly convincing "yes" vote. One other thing emerged. Endless arguments about the effect on the Barnett formula which guarantees the size of the Scottish block grant, or the exact impact of 3p on the basic rate of income tax, may engage the brain but they leave the heart untouched. And for the majority of Scots who vote today, it is the heart that is likely to rule. They have heard the worst, and they believe they can live with it.

Towards the end of the two-and-a-half hour debate, one leading Edinburgh financier said something that seemed to sum up the mood of the evening. Let's forget about figures," he said. "In the end, this is about people." Coming from such an unlikely source, the sentiment spoke volumes.

The tide is running strongly for the 'yes' campaign



Tales of a devo-sceptic

Norman Stone explains his change of heart over Scottish devolution

I should start with an apology. Time was when I believed, not very strongly, in Scottish devolution. Now I am quite strongly against it. The problem is that the good ideas of one decade can be carried forward by bureaucratic momentum and develop into bad institutions: educational reform is an excellent example.

Back in the 1980s, devolution for Scotland seemed a good idea. Thatcherism in England was obviously working, but the Scots voted more and more heavily for Labour or the nationalists. Why? They, too, had joined in the prosperity that the decade brought. Glasgow was not Liverpool. Why was Scotland not endorsing Margaret Thatcher? In the end, you could only conclude that the argument with which we had lived for so long, that economic matters in politics are nearly all, did not work any more.

The answer, if I asked even intelligent Scots, was a frown at the mouth, "something about his voice" and, from a taxi driver, that Scotland was a "more caring" country. The deeper answer was, I think, psychological.

When I was a lad, arriving in Cambridge, an educated Scottish voice had its very respectable place in England's acoustics. This is not surprising given the vast pedigree of thirty-eyed achievement that Scotland has, at least since the latter 18th century, represented. Square yard of muddy little country for square yard of muddy little country, the Scots have achieved more even than the Dutch.

Then, after about 1930, the great powerhouse of Scottish industry weakened; it depended on subsidies and on shipbuilding non-managers who, in Jimmy Reid's immortal phrase, thought that cost-benefit analysis was a Greek shipowner's mistress. We fell in our own and in others' esteem. A bright undergraduate remarked rather pityingly, when I left Cambridge for an Oxford chair some years ago, that I had done well to get where I had.

Scots responded to this by de-anglicising themselves. At my old school, Glasgow Academy, it is noticeable that Scottish idiom and accent have become considerably broader. This is part of a process of abandoning linguistic formality that has gone through the Western world:

Why did Scotland not endorse Margaret Thatcher?

it means the endless inappropriate use of tu in place of usted or vous, with only Russians and Germans, so far as I can judge, holding out.

There is also an argument, important in the 1980s, that what was being done in England would not work in Scotland. Scotland was a much poorer country with linguistic, religious and tribal divisions of a severity unknown in England. "State-building" in the sense that developed in, say, Prussia in the 18th century or Turkey in the 20th century, was much more needed than in England. The Scots had therefore developed four, even five, universities, for instance, whereas the English made do with two: they just did not need the bureaucracy, because Dukes of Bridgewater were doing the canals and the railways, whereas the Scots had to do such things through state and army, as did north Germans.

You can tell the difference, at a glance, from the street-maps of Glasgow, where long, straight roads mean that someone, somewhere, was just expropriating private property in the name of the general good, whereas as England goes in for higgledy-piggledy arrangements. This reflects the balance of power between private and public, much like those devastatingly straight French roads. You could not go around Europe in the Eighties without cursing the awful inefficiency of an English State in matters of simple convenience.

Now the German example mattered, even in the 1980s, and it will be interesting, some day, to see what effect on Labour thinking it had. Bonn presided over a federal system which was in part historic and in part just made up for the convenience of foreign occupiers, particularly the French, who wanted to see a weakened and divided Germany. In the 1980s, if you travelled to, say, Essen in the Ruhr, you were, if you were British, downcast. Here was a region that had been heavily industrial, like so much of our own North. The Germans had "greened" it, installed a new infrastructure, organised the

traffic, put in many interesting museums and good educational institutions, sat back and seen Essen recover. Compare this with, say, Sheffield. Some of our North, even now, is the grimmest swath of dereliction west of the old Iron Curtain. So the German example of enlightened federalism seemed to have much to recommend it, and in the late 1980s, as I understand, bright Labour people were going there quite often, admiring and learning.

There was another point, this time one for the Right. Our comprehensive schools may work here and there, but the evidence against them is rather strong — the correspondent of *Die Zeit* complained not long ago that his 14-year-old was being "diseducated". As it happens, Germany had been faced with demands for comprehensive schools in the 1970s, but the federal states had the final say. Left-wing ones voted for such schools. Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg refused. Result? The middle classes emigrated there, and soon they became the most prosperous parts of Germany.

This had an effect on the comprehensive states, which mended their ways in time — a great contrast with England, where the comprehensivists swept all before them, except for a few outposts. Here was a case of the kind of internal competition that federalism could encourage. The idea, therefore, of a "Bavarian solution" for Scotland seemed attractive — not just in education, but in much else. The recovery of Glasgow shows the force of this.

It was Margaret Thatcher who stamped on this idea. Internal competition was already easily possible, she said: in fact Scotland has, of course, its own legal system, its own educational institutions and much else, stemming from the original Act of Union. If it were not for the weather, the likelihood is that a great many more English people would emigrate there, to take advantage of what unquestionably does work better than in the South. It is up to the Scots to compete on existing terms. This is perfectly true, of course, and

in many ways already happens. There is very little need for a parliament in Edinburgh to supervise, with a matching bureaucracy and all the expense (and, as we know, corruption) that goes with it.

Besides, federalism is desperately expensive. France and Spain, for different reasons, went in for it and duplicated things all round. German public finances went out of kilter, partly through reparations in the 1920s, but especially because the federal system created so many borrowing and spending points that in the end they could not be controlled except by more or less abolishing Parliament. Nowadays German public finances are not in a healthy condition. The case of Belgium is also relevant. There, Flemings and Walloons slugged it out until there were threefold or — if you include the German minority and the Euro-bureaucracy — fivefold replicas of institutions. Belgium is now very badly indebted, with a small of corruption all round and no end to the nationality-scraping in sight.

Federalism, in any case, works only where there are federal units that have some degree of uniformity. That is not at all true of Scotland. Tension between Catholic and Protestant still underlies some of the politics. Glasgow, having become a Labour stronghold when the Catholic vote, at the end of the First World War, switched to Labour, Orkney and Shetland might very well vote en bloc to remain with England. The Gaelic lobby would have its own agenda — we could find ourselves paying for motorway signs in Gaelic, just as motorway signs in Welsh have been erected in South Wales.

Of that process, Lord Tebbit made an off-the-cuff remark that it was a sort of *Jurassic Park* in which you take a fossil, spend thousands of millions of pounds and create a monster. My fear is that, with the Scottish referendum, we are heading in the same direction. Although I shall set up a Duke of Cumberland League to oppose independence, I believe that even independence would be preferable to the sort of half-dead, expensive nonsense that is on offer today.

William Rees-Mogg's column will return next Monday.

The Gaelic lobby would have its own agenda

William Rees-Mogg's column will return next Monday.

The great chain of birders

The sky's the limit for the RSPB, says

Simon Barnes

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has just recruited its millionth member. I wonder how many of them can distinguish a whitethroat from a lesser whitethroat on call. I wonder how many could summarise the common agricultural policy and explain the RSPB stance on winter stubble and spring-sown cereals.

A million people is a colossal constituency, and one which must be taken with increasing seriousness. It is harder to say what that constituency stands for. Its members are probably united only in the notion that it is awfully nice to see a blue tit hanging on a bag of nuts.

Most of us who watched the summer's cricket, the Ashes series, enjoyed the special zing that is always in the air when England play Australia. Now you could probably get somewhere close to explaining the reason for this zing in a doctorate-length thesis on the history of colonialism, the emergence of a nation and the imperial hangover. But you do not need to explain the zing in order to feel it, to revel in it. You do not need to know your history in order to live it.

Some of us — dare I say most of us? — feel a special zing at the sight, at the sound, of a bird: the fluting of a blackbird in a suburban garden, the robin chest-puffing in the snow. Birds, people feel instinctively, are a good thing. People want to have them around, so they join the RSPB. They do not need to consider the implications of that, any more than a cricket enthusiast needs to know about social conditions in Australia during the 1930s.

The first implication of joining the RSPB, and one that most of its members are very much aware of, is that something is amiss somewhere. Something is wrong in the state of bird-dom. There are fewer birds about than there should be. It is not that rare birds are getting rarer; the fact is that common birds are getting much less common.

And people are aware of this, not as received wisdom, like the decline of the blue whale, but from personal experience. You may not know the call of a song thrush or even a skylark, but the countryside is a good deal less noisy than it used to be. We know it: it is a change we have observed in our own lifetime.

When absurdly common birds such as the song thrush and skylark are declining at great speed, it is as clear an indicator as you could wish for that something is wrong. That is where the business of birds takes off into areas of high concern.

Birds are first-class indicators of environmental health. If you see a sparrowhawk, you know there must be an awful lot of blue tits around. The hawk could not make a living if this were not true. Therefore there must be a huge amount of caterpillars; the blue tits could not live if this were not the case. And therefore there must be a great deal of good healthy vegetation, or the caterpillars could not exist. Therefore the air and water that nourish the plants must be reasonably clean. It is not just that the sparrowhawk is all right — the entire local environment is all right. All this is logically inferred from a brief glimpse of a sinister feathered shape. The sight of a sparrowhawk lifts the heart: it is also a pretty stirring matter when considered intellectually.

The fact is that if you want to save the birds, you must save the places where they live. This begins with the maintenance of special reserves. The most famous of these is Minster in Suffolk, which is famous for avocets, the "extinct" bird that came back. Vanished from this country, the avocet returned in the late 1940s. It is rightly the RSPB symbol.

This concern moves beyond reserves to places that are not owned by the RSPB, but which are important for birds. Places such as the Flow Country in Scotland, or Canford Heath in Dorset. In both of these places the RSPB was involved in projects, including urgent political lobbying, to prevent environmental destruction. It is good news for the birds; it is good news for anything that happens to live there.

The notion of saving habitats has still wider implications. Birds happen to live in the world and therefore, logically enough, it is the RSPB's task to save the world. This is a pretty big job to take on. Concern for birds leads ineluctably to such questions as overfishing, oil pollution, the rising sea level, global warming, agricultural practices, water abstraction and draining, air pollution, transport, trade, waste disposal: just about every aspect of the way in which we live.

Barbara Young, the RSPB chief executive, says: "Bird species are an environmental barometer. Declining bird numbers are often one of the earliest signs of damage, neglect and pollution of any environment. We believe in action at both practical and policy levels to reverse the damage being done."

The matter of saving the birds starts as small as a single blue tit and leads, by a series of small, logical steps, to matters of global importance. In seeking to save a corner for bluebirds, we are seeking also to save the world for ourselves.

Meal ticket

A ONE-ARMED chef looks set to be named as cook of the year, beating a veritable smorgasbord of culinary talent including Michel Roux and Raymond Blanc.

The esteemed AA Chef's Chef of the Year Award — nominated by the 1,700 chefs featured in the motoring organisation's *Best Restaurant Guide* — seems likely to go to Michael Caines of Gidleigh Park Hotel in Chagford, Devon, an acclaimed nosh house that was

recently awarded five AA rosettes.

"Caines is favourite," says my man with the potato peeler, "but he faces stiff competition." As well as Roux and Blanc there is Gordon Ramsay of London's fashionable (ie, expensive) Aubergine, who won last year, and John Cristoff Novelli. Awkwardly for Ramsay and Novelli, both have links with Marco Pierre White of the Hyde Park Hotel's trough, notorious for being more volatile than a rising soufflé in a dicky Aga.

Caines, 28, trained with Raymond Blanc before losing his right arm in a motoring accident. Butchering meat and filleting fish became tricky.

"I had to regain dexterity in my left arm," he says. "It took six months to relearn the skills." I wish him luck.

Licence to bore

THE name's Snow. Peter Snow. The man with the golden swingometer says he was interviewed by the late Cubby Broccoli to replace Sean Connery as James Bond.

"The producer saw me reading the news and thought I might con-

ceivably be a contender, so he asked me to meet him at a Mayfair house," recalls the presenter, whose genial battiness might still ensure him a part as Q. "The moment he opened the door and saw my size, his face dropped. I was always too tall to be an actor."

Espionage runs in the family. His cousin, the newscaster Jon Snow, turned down an offer from MIS — a decision he might regret after difficulties over his "royal rift" story this week.

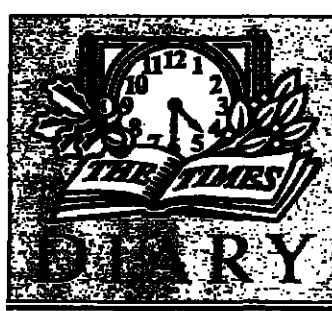
Willie's boy

IT IS a tricky job, let's face it: to sell William Hague as the future Prime Minister. The new Tory leader's search for an Alastair Campbell figure to improve his dire public image is now complete — but it has been a struggle.

Before settling on young Gregor Mackay, a thurstoner who served as special adviser to the erstwhile Cabinet minister Ian Lang, Hague was turned down by three of Fleet Street's sharper operators.

The vastness of the challenge was demonstrated by Wee Willie's tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales. His lack of emotion was palpable.

Most recently Willie approached Simon Walters, political editor of the *Express on Sunday*, who preferred to remain at that re-



nown centre of happiness, the grey Express building. Willie's new boy now has unique access to both Central Office and Downing Street. He is said to be talented: he needs to be.

● Virgin boss Richard Branson has recalled the loss of his virginity. Uh oh. "The girl had an unbelievable orgasm which never seemed to stop," he recalls. "So I thought I should start again. Then she gasped: 'Asthma attack'. I had to call a doctor."

Goon fishing

AS COURTIERS discuss when the Prince of Wales might return to public life, his great friends the remaining Goons are hoping he might feel strong enough to appear at next month's Goon convention.

"I hope he can come," says a brooding Spike Milligan. "It would be rather nice to see him." The Prince still writes fan letters to the unpredictable comic, even after Spike called him a "grovelling little bastard" at an awards ceremony.

Loyal fan

THE synchronicity of political events was evident at the launch of a biography of the late Labour Chancellor, Stafford Cripps.

Here I found Peter Mandelson, whose grandfather, Herbert Morrison, had recruited Cripps to socialism. "I identify with Cripps," he says. "He sacrificed a great deal and flirted with communism" — an allusion to his own early brush with the reds that so interested the security services.

Cripps was renowned for his self-belief. "There but for the grace of God goes God," Churchill once remarked. The similarities between Mandelson and Cripps continue.

The book's author, Chris Bryant, quoted Churchill again on Cripps: "A brooding over the work of others is only too often the lot of a minister without departmental duties. For a man of his keen intellect, as yet untimpered by administrative experience, his exalted ideals, and his skills in theoretical exposition,



Home alone: Kidman

this form of activity held a strong, though dangerous appeal. His great intellectual energy needed to be harnessed to a more practical task." Over to you, Mr Blair.

● Is this taking the division of parental responsibility too far? Hollywood marrieds Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, shooting in London, have bewildered colleagues on the set of *Eyes Wide Shut* by retiring alone — each to separate trailers, each with one of their adopted children.

P.H.S



Likely lad: Caines



DECISION DAY

'Yes, no' would be the worst result of all

By this time tomorrow, the "settled will" of the Scottish people will be known to all. "Destiny" — the word on many politicians' lips these past weeks — is not carved in stone: it is as fluid as the wishes of those who seek to shape it. Today, those living in Scotland can determine their fate, in the most momentous deliberation since the Act of Union nearly three centuries ago.

Scots may cast devolution low on their list of political priorities, behind education or health or unemployment. But let them not delude themselves that today's referendum is anything but historic. If it passes, it will mark the end of a process begun some 20 years ago, when a Labour Government first sought support for a Scottish parliament, and the beginning of another, which will create a new settlement for the governance of the United Kingdom.

Whether that settlement will loosen or tighten the ties that bind England to Scotland will become apparent only over decades. A successful, efficient and confident parliament could help to assuage the irritations felt by Scots and to narrow the distance between the governors and the governed. If this happens, clamours for independence might be stilled.

The future could, however, take a different path. Annoyance with Westminster could build if Scottish politicians blame their failures on central government. Relations between Edinburgh and London could become explosive. Scots may not be content with the powers that they have and, goaded by nationalists, might demand more. Outright independence could be seen as the panacea. For Unionists in Scotland, therefore, this referendum depends on a balance of judgments about the future, neither of which can be proved right in advance.

Today, that judgment will be made. Some voters will feel that their problems have been solved already, by the election of a Labour

Government. Others will rue the truncated nature of the campaign. Many will regret that the facts upon which they are expected to take their decisions are still cloudy, and would have preferred to have seen an Act of Parliament before making up their minds. But devolution has been a talking-point for far longer than Labour has been in power, and most Scots have known for many years whether they want it or not. All the evidence is that they will vote "yes", at least to the parliament. Bravehearts will vote for tax-varying powers too, even if fainthearts hope that the result tonight will be "yes, no".

The latter group — a combination of Conservatives and sceptical Labour ministers — would be unwise to rejoice at such an outcome. All the elements that could lead to instability after devolution would be magnified manyfold were the parliament to have less power over its revenue than any parish council. The least hospital waiting list, leaking school roof or cancelled train would be blamed on Westminster parsimony. If Scots want to pay more for better public services, they should be allowed to do so. If they do not, they can simply elect parties that promise not to raise income tax. But if representatives of those parties cannot even take a stance on the level of tax, their power and calibre will be much reduced. It will become more attractive to be a local councillor than a Member of the Scottish Parliament and, after the recent shenanigans in the Labour Party in Scotland, voters must be hoping for a rather better grade of politician in Edinburgh than has been on show in Paisley.

Today, therefore, the real choice is starker than it looks. "No, no" is an honest option. So, oddly, is "no, yes" since, if a parliament is to be set up, better that it have tax-varying powers. But if voters are going to vote "yes" to the first question, they should do the same for the second.

SENATOR NO

Helms holds American foreign policy hostage again

Washington awaits an extraordinary but predictable struggle. The normally mundane matter of who should serve as US Ambassador to Mexico has been transformed into a titanic political contest. Bill Clinton's decision to nominate William Weld, a Republican who was until recently the Governor of Massachusetts, might have been seen as a conciliatory signal towards a Republican-controlled Senate. Instead, the proposal has met the absolute opposition of Senator Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is the Senator rather than the President who seems likely to prevail.

The position at issue is diplomatic: the language of the debate so far has not been. The Senator commenced battle by condemning his fellow Republican as "soft on drugs", in large part because Mr Weld has expressed sympathy for the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The former Governor replied by attacking the Senator's "ideological extortion". Mr Helms then not only declined to endorse Mr Weld but refused to allow his committee to deliberate on the matter. As the norms of the Senate stand, that alone is enough to kill the question.

This dispute has many aspects but US-Mexican relations are among the least of them. Mr Helms and Mr Weld occupy the opposite and extreme ends of the Republican party spectrum. Mr Weld favours a more liberal approach towards social issues, especially abortion and homosexuality; Mr Helms does not. President Clinton was hardly innocent of such facts when he chose to support the man from Massachusetts. The White House is doing its best to appear shocked at the Republican fratricide. Mr Weld, not above electoral calculation either,

may be more than willing to suffer at the hands of Senator Helms if it assists his long-term presidential prospects.

The present impasse is one in a long line of interventions from the Senator. Mr Helms has exploited the traditions of the chamber to acquire his power. He became chairman not through the confidence of his colleagues but because he is the longest-serving Republican member of the committee. His strategy, as Mr Weld has found, is simple but persistent obstruction. He has stalled key appointments to the State Department, refused to confirm dozens of aspiring ambassadors, and put major international treaties in limbo. He has rewritten American law to tighten further the screw on Fidel Castro's Cuba. Madeleine Albright is Secretary of State today not least because she is one of the few members of the Clinton Administration whom Mr Helms cares for.

All this allows a single stubborn Senator exceptional influence over American foreign policy. If allowed the opportunity, a majority of members on the Foreign Relations Committee, and a majority in the chamber as a whole, would probably accept Mr Weld's appointment. They are unlikely to have that chance. His fellow Republicans, now rather embarrassed by the whole affair, may succeed in persuading Mr Helms to hold hearings on the Weld nomination. That does not mean the matter will ever reach a vote.

The optimists think that Mr Helms might finally have overreached himself on this occasion, that he will win on Mr Weld but be forced to behave better in future. His record implies the opposite. The Senator is not scheduled for re-election in North Carolina until 2002. Mr Clinton may not, therefore, be the last President that Mr Helms torments.

NEW CORNISH HORROR

Dr Watson and the case of the Mousehole fox

It was in the autumn of 1997 that Holmes's iron constitution showed some symptoms of giving way in the face of constant hard work of a most exacting kind, aggravated, perhaps, by the fact that the famous detective had now attained his 143rd year. So his enforced vacation to recuperate in Cornwall created one of those coincidences noticed by students. For our previous excursion to that granite county had taken place in 1897, precisely a century ago. And careful readers will recall that this led to one of the most horrifying of all his cases: *The Devil's Foot*, headlined by the press as the Cornish Horror.

We had again taken the same small cottage near Faldhu Bay. And once again my friend's restless intellect involved us in mystery. Briefly, the neighbouring village of Mousehole, until now famous only for its picturesque harbour and cream teas, is being terrorised by a fox. Five persons, including a German tourist, have had to be given anti-rabies injections after being bitten. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has sent down a wildlife unit to apprehend the beast. Inspector Lestrade's police marksmen have been summoned to shoot it. But the fox is proving elusive.

"Holmes!" I exclaimed. "Animals have played star parts in your cases. Memorable hounds scent throughout your canon, both as weapons of justice and of crime. The Giant Rat of Sumatra, a story for which the world is still not prepared, captured the terror that such a creature would inflict

upon the Victorian psyche. But surely a fox is an improbable instrument of crime, and unworthy of your steel. Is Reynard not rather an example of cunning for ancient fables and modern cartoons, a quarry for Jorrocks and a victim for the compassionate and caring opponents of blood sports?"

"I have told you before, Watson," declared Holmes, "that crime can wear a smiling face. The lowest and vilest redevelopments of London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the bracing and beautiful coast of Cornwall. Have you not heard the saying that the Devil will not come into Cornwall for fear of being put into a pie? That alludes to the doubtful (and doubtless) ingredients of Cornish pasties. And our fox may have started to bite the hand that feeds it after being fed potato chips. But you may be sure that some deep devilry lies behind these commonplace events."

"How so?" I ejaculated. "How else have we made our living for these past 100 years, old friend?" Holmes replied. "Writing detective stories is, or ought to be, an exact science and should be treated in the same cold and unemotional manner. You have always attempted to tinge my cases with romanticism. But the basic plot of a rattling good yarn is still the foxy smiler with the tooth, the mystery beneath the fur. The countryside of English agribusiness is naturally so safe and placid that our mystery-lovers cannot possibly ignore this curious incident of the fox in the night-time."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Scotland should determine the course of its own destiny

From Mr Stan Grodyski

Sir, Campaigners for a "no" vote have been playing on a mistrust of politicians, which seems reasonable, particularly to those who fear that a Labour-dominated Scottish parliament would return Scotland to the days when nationalisation was viewed as a solution to declining international competitiveness.

While there is general agreement that both education and health merit higher priorities, there is undoubtedly a suspicion that taxes increased specifically for improvement of these services will, over time, be diverted elsewhere to exploit short-term political objectives. However, if these indeed are genuine concerns in Scotland, then surely it is in the long-term interests of the Scots to face up to them via the forum of a Scottish parliament, rather than maintain the status quo?

Perhaps the conclusive long-term argument centres on the economic issues associated with Scotland's future in Europe. From this perspective, the answers to both referendum questions must relate simply to each individual's "European aspiration".

If that aspiration is to opt out of the EU altogether (a prospect which even the Conservative Party is not openly promoting), then the strengths and benefits of the Union will possibly be reinforced for the peoples of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as England. If that aspiration is to stay in the EU, then a dilution of voice and wealth via a parliament in Westminster does not appear logical.

The only sincere proposition appears to be for the Scots to have faith in themselves to take control over their own destiny in Europe, so that every one (including the English) may reap the rewards of a confident, revitalised, and ambitious Scottish nation.

Yours faithfully,

STAN GRODYSKI,
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September 9.

From Señora P. Ferré-Martínez

Sir, Politicians basically seek two things: money and power. They like to squeeze taxpayers' pockets and maintain firm control of society by appointing their cronies in a bureaucratic state system.

Tony Blair's idea of a referendum to create autonomous assemblies in Scotland and Wales is similar to what happened in Spain after Franco's death. The country split into 17

autonomías, with 17 autonomous parliaments, 17 autonomous presidents (each earning the same salary as the nation's Prime Minister), and thousands and thousands of well-paid "cronies" (politicians).

Spain is today, in political terms, a real medieval state with 17 feudal masters, some of whom have held on to power for more than 20 years. Their onerous maintenance has generated a debt equivalent to several billions of pounds, their bureaucracy has multiplied ad infinitum and they constantly use their autonomy to blackmail central Government.

Autonomous assemblies or autonomous nationalisms: two rusted relics of medieval times which will undermine the foundations of modern European democracies. Good for greedy politicians, bad for intensely squeezed taxpayers.

Yours etc,
P. FERRÉ-MARTÍNEZ,
A. Gloger, 35-30a,
Valencia 46007, Spain.

From Mr Russell Mallace

Sir, Mr Drummond Hunter's comment (letter, September 9) about "the hopelessly one-sided partnership between England and Scotland" is absolutely correct.

Scotsmen totally dominate our Government and lives. Sadly, as a Scotsman living in England I will have no say in the referendum that will mark the beginning of the end of the United Kingdom. I trust that when those in Government have finished this task they will leave Westminster and re-

turn to Edinburgh to sort out both Scotland's and Drummond Hunter's futures. Somehow I doubt it.

Yours etc,
RUSSELL MALLACE,
3 Hinton House Farm Cottages,
Byfield, Daventry,
Northamptonshire.
rmallace@popmail.direc.co.uk
September 10.

From Mr Paul Burrell

Sir, I was surprised to find two very similar bags of potatoes for sale at my local branch of Sainsbury's today. One was labelled "Scottish white potatoes" and the other "British white potatoes". Is this distinction a concession to Scottish farmers with chips on their shoulders?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BURRELL,
37 South Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
September 10.

From Mr David H. P. Simpson

Sir, Before they vote on devolution perhaps the Scots ought to consider the effect on their weather of the introduction of a permanent layer of parliamentary hot air over Scotland — the "ayayosphere".

The political climate is not the only thing that might change.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. P. SIMPSON,
Orchard Cottage,
Earlswood Road, Ashford, Kent.
September 10.

Cheap at the price

From Mr Fred Wachsberger

Sir, In your leading article (August 23) you highlight the fact that an individual on the average Scots wage of £18,900 might have to pay an extra £6 per week in "tartan tax", and what the long-term implication of such a tax might be.

Living in the shadow of Hadrian's Wall in a part of England that was frequently a part of Scotland, one has a rather different outlook on the situation from you poor individuals in the South East. Why anyone would consider paying, not an extra £350 per year, but perhaps as much as £3,500 per year for a season ticket to allow them to spend some three hours a day commuting in leisure discomfort (curtailing available leisure time by an equivalent amount), or enjoying the

pleasures of the M25, etc, beggars belief.

Why do people pay £200,000 for a four-bedroom house when they can buy one here for as little as £50,000? Why do they dine out for £50 when they can enjoy a great pub meal for £5? It is called choice.

Some people choose to live in different parts of this sceptred isle, maybe earning a bit less.

Sorry, Sir, I am sure most Scots and Northerners would happily pay a little extra "tartan tax" to enjoy what too many of you crazy folk in the South don't have and, with ever-increasing traffic congestion, sadly will probably never have — quality of life.

Sincerely,
FRED WACHSBERGER,
Howden Close Cottage,
Corbridge, Northumberland.
August 25.

The Russian Church

From Canon Dr Michael Bourdeaux

Sir, Your leader today ("Rebuilt and reborn") rightly hails the restoration of Moscow's glorious heritage, as embodied in the churches which Stalin and Khrushchev destroyed.

However, the rebuilding of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour should evoke less generous praise, being a symbol — now, as in the 19th century — of unconstrained Russian nationalism.

President Yeltsin's advisers have used the cover of Moscow's 850th anniversary celebrations to propose the final draft of a new law on religion which is deeply anti-democratic. If passed by the Duma it would give special privileges to "established" religions, which are defined as those recognised by the Brezhnev regime 15 years ago.

Some of the Churches worst oppressed under communism, as well as newer religions, will have to register every year for 15 years and will, meanwhile, have virtually no rights.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX,
Keele Institute,
4 Park Town, Oxford.
September 8.

Orders on D-Day

From Major-General Michael Reynolds (ret)

Sir, I much enjoyed your obituary of Colonel Hans von Luck, the wartime Panzer leader (August 28). He was indeed a fine soldier and I was fortunate in being able to question him on many of his wartime experiences when he stayed at my house in Heidelberg in 1981.

I would, however, like to correct one often repeated myth which appears in the obituary. In June 1944 the 21 Panzer Division was part of Army Group "B", commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, and it is not true that it was forbidden to move on D-Day without a direct order from Hitler.

The divisional commander, Lieutenant-General Feuchtinger, ordered part of it into action at 0630 hours on June 6. At 1000 hours Headquarters Army Group "B", after discussing the situation with Rommel, directed that it was to stop its move against the British airborne bridgehead east of the Orne and counter-attack on the west side of the river in aid of the German forces protecting Caen.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE REYNOLDS
(Author, *Steel Inferno* —
1 SS Panzer Corps in Normandy,
Spellmount, 1997),
8 Grassington Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
August 28.

Silent conspiracy on Japan's history

From Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Sir, The Japanese Supreme Court's decision in the case brought by Mr Saburo Ienaga over censorship of school textbooks by the Japanese Ministry of Education (leading article, August 30) should be welcomed by all who believe that rewriting history to disguise unpalatable truths is dangerous and wrong. I have argued on a number of occasions with Japanese right-wing historians that, although there can be questions about the numbers who were massacred, the rape of Nanking is a fact of history for which the evidence cannot be controverted.

There is ample evidence about the activities of unit 731. Of course Japanese forces were not alone in committing war crimes, but in Germany there has not been a conspiracy of

silence by education authorities. Here in Britain if allegations of war crimes by members of British forces are made these rightly attract much publicity and careful investigations.

A fundamental weakness in the Japanese education system lies in the way in which the Ministry of Education vets and prescribes what can be taught. In studying history students should surely be encouraged to search out the facts for themselves and evaluate what they discover. Examinations in history cannot be conducted on the basis of multiple choice questions.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CORTAZZI,
(Ambassador to Japan, 1980-84),
Ballsocks, Vines Cross,
Heathfield, East Sussex.
August 30.

Tills apart

From Professor Maxwell Gaskin

Sir, Mr Colin Croskin (letter, September 2; see also letter, August 26) is wrong to say that those Scottish banks which issue banknotes do so "with the permission of the Bank of England".

The right of the present three issuing banks to issue notes is a statutory one which originates in the Bank Notes (Scotland) Act of 1845, one of the three Acts by which Sir Robert Peel sought to control note issue throughout the United Kingdom. It is a right which, in terms of the Act, has survived the successive mergers which have produced the present three banks of issue.

I am surprised at the difficulty apparently met by Professor Hector MacQueen (letter, September 2). As a regular visitor to England from Scotland I have never met the slightest reluctance to accept Scottish notes there.

Yours faithfully,
MAXWELL GASKIN,
Westfield,
Ancrum, Roxburghshire.
September 2.

Ageism and cars

From Mr R. N. Hutchingson

Sir, Your correspondents (August 25 and 30) have commented on sexism in car advertisements. I advertised a Y-registered Golf in a small local paper. In the advertisement were the words "pensioner driven for the last 12 years".

The car was sold by lunchtime with no drop in price, and there were 14 further inquiries in the next 24 hours.

Yours faithfully,
R. N. HUTCHINGSON,
Garden Cottage, Church Lane,
Bury, Pulborough, West Sussex.
100741.1415@compuserve.com
August 29.

Reflections on the funeral coverage

From Mrs Caroline Blair

Sir, After every child murder or violent accident we have got used to TV news displaying weeping relatives telling us about the extent of their loss. Our sensibilities have become coarsened by this voyeurism.

On Saturday I, like millions of others, sat with the Order of Service on my lap and watched the BBC's superb coverage of the funeral. There were no intrusive close-ups of the families, no overfamiliar comment on those present or absent from the congregation and no paparazzi shots of the interment. A return by television to the decorum of Saturday would make us a more civilised people.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE BLAIR,
2 Greenhill Park, Edinburgh 10.
September 9.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Walton (ret)

Sir, While the television channels did a good job on Saturday showing us the events of the day, they must not feel they are the good boys of the media. They are there with the rest, in fact more powerful than newsprint.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALTON,
Longworth Manor,
Longworth,
Nr Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
September 8.

From Mr John Chambers

Sir, When I was learning my trade as a journalist, some 40 years ago, I was shown a copy of the house-style manual for a great national broadsheet daily of those days (it still publishes but is now a tabloid).

One dictum in particular has always stuck in my mind: "Would you write the story if it was about the proprietor or his family?"

That seems to me to be admirably succinct and, by and large, it still seems that editors find it prudent to observe the same guideline today.

It certainly does not offer a cover-all cure-all for the worst contemporary news-hounding, but does it point a way? If journalists can constrain themselves to working within such a rule for the advantage of safeguarding their personal employment, this seems to suggest that a general rule of ordinary decency ought to be achievable if they were given some similar reason to apply their mind to it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHAMBERS,
Clifford Cottage,
19 Clifford Chambers,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
September 8.

From Mr J. E. Bradshaw

Sir, To me the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was unbearably tragic, her funeral intensely moving. But I have also found the behaviour of the British public and media unbearable. The response and its coverage were totally excessive, the style for the most part mawkish, vulgar, self-indulgent and hysterical. And the conclusion that we are at some kind of national turning-point is presumptuous arrogance.

The deployment of these excesses as an excuse to introduce ill-considered changes in the constitution and the conduct and role of the Royal Family is greatly to be regretted.

For a week the many who think as I do have maintained a polite and shocked silence, mourning in our own way in the privacy of our homes. But no more. We deserve to be heard — it's our country too.

JOHN BRADSHAW,
The Loft,
Kraenhill Farm, Alderminster,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
jeb@netmatters.co.uk
September 9.

Brotherly love

From Lord Hanson

Sir, Of all the tens of thousands of words we have read in the last sad days, Libby Purves ("Bravely said, brother", September 9) encapsulated what must be the thoughts and feelings of most of us.

She shows herself to be a caring family woman whose words identified the real meaning of fraternal love and responsibility.

I hope she is not serious in her declaration to leave journalism behind: hang in there, Libby.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HANSON,
House of Lords.
September 10.

Rambo on wheels

From Miss Kim Andrews

Sir, Mr Sylvester Stallone tells us (report, September 9) that he has led "a shallow and egotistical life" and that he wishes this to change. To illustrate the seriousness of his intent, he will make a film about Formula One motor racing. The poor chap must be confused.

Yours faithfully,
KIM ANDREWS,
The Formula One Cartoon Archive,
160 Castle Hill Road,
Tottenham,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
kim@fox.co.uk
September 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
September 10: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning attended the official opening ceremony of "Britain in Russia 1997", followed by a Luncheon held by

Governor Sklyarov of Nizhny Novgorod.
His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception and Dinner given by the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alexandra will visit the University of Aberdeen's Department of Ophthalmology for "Saving Sight in Grampian" at the Medical School, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, at 3.55.

Birthdays today

Professor Norman Ashton, FRCS, pathologist, 84; Mr Franz Beckenbauer, football manager, 52; Sir Austin Bide, former chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 82; Dame Margaret Booth, former Lord Justice, 64; Mr Paul Cole, racehorse trainer, 56; Mr Brian De Palma, film director, 53; Mrs Mary Fagan, Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, 58; Sir Bernard Feilden, architect, 78; Mr Eddie George, Governor, Bank of England, 59; Lord Gibson-Watt, 79; Mr William Knight, senior partner, Simmons & Simmons, 52; Mr Michael Lambert, racehorse trainer, 53; Lord Marlesford, 66; Lord Mayhew of Twysden, QC, 68; Mr Andrew Rowe, MP, 62; Mr Barry Sheene, former motorcycle champion, 47; The Right Rev John Taylor, former Bishop of Winchester, 83; Mr Roger Unley, rugby player and teacher, 48.

Luncheon

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Sir Neil Shaw, Chairman of Tate & Lyle, was the guest of honour and speaker at a Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce Luncheon held yesterday at the Royal Over-Seas League. John Bridgman, president of the chamber, was in the chair. Lord Marsh, the Canadian Deputy High Commissioner and the Agent General for Quebec were among those present.

Appointments

Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale to be Chairman of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom in succession to Sir Richard Luce.
Dr Peter Corrie, former Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Assembly, to be Deputy Chairman of the Standing Conference of Atlantic Organisations.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pierre de Ronsard, poet, Couture sur Loir, Bas-Vendôme, France, 1525; Henri de la Tour d'Auvergne, Vicomte de Turenne, Marshal of France, Sedan, 1611; Mrs Elizabeth Rowe, poet, Ithaca, Somerset, 1674; James Thomson, poet and author of *The Seasons*, Ednam, Roxburghshire, 1700; Arthur Young, agriculturist, London, 1741; Thomas Barnes, Editor of *The Times* 1817-41, London, 1785; O. Henry (William Sydney Porter), short-story writer, Greenboro, North Carolina, 1862; Sir James Jeans, mathematician and astronomer, London, 1877; D.H. Lawrence, novelist, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, 1885.
DEATHS: James Harrington, political theorist, London, 1677; Giovanni Cassini, astronomer, Paris, 1712; John Brand, antiquary and topographer, London, 1806; Sir Francis Baring, banker, Leam, Kent, 1810; David Ricardo, economist, Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, 1823; Thomas Graham, chemist, London, 1869; Anthonio de Quental, poet, Azores, 1891; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, 1st Governor-General of Pakistan 1947-48, Karachi, 1948; Jan Christian Smuts, Field Marshal, Prime Minister of South Africa 1919-24 and 1939-48, near Pretoria, 1950; Robert Service, poet and novelist, Lancashire, 1958; Nikita Khrushchev, Prime Minister of the Soviet Union 1958-64, Moscow, 1971; Salvador Allende, President of Chile 1970-73, killed during a military coup, Santiago, 1973.
English forces under General Howe defeated George Washington's troops at the Battle of Brandywine Creek, 1777.
The first commuter train began regular service between London and Brighton, 1841.
Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, with libretto by W.H. Auden, was first performed in Venice, 1951.

Full house for piping at the Gathering

By ANGUS NICOL

ONCE again there was a capacity entry for the piping events at the Argyleshire Gathering, and a waiting list for the Gold and Silver Medals. The joint committees of the Argyleshire Gathering and Northern Meeting has fixed the number of competitors for each event at 30. Any more makes a very long competition.

The competition for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal was not the judges' sole vintage one, though there were some good tunes. The winner was James Murray, who played *The Battle of Auldane* (No 2). Logan Tannock also played a battle tune, *The Battle of the Pass of Craig*, to win second prize. Alan Brown won third prize with *The Young Laird of Dungalton's Salute*, a tune which was in the set list a year or two ago. Fourth prize went to Alan Russell with *The Menzies Salute*.

In the Senior Flute/oboe, open only to previous winners of the Gold Medal, there were some brilliant tunes, but with serious mistakes in them; and five competitors broke down, which is very unusual at that level. The winner, for the second year running, was Michael Cluskey who played *Craigalachie*. William MacCallum, playing the nameless tune *Cheride darlacha*, took second prize. Alasdair Gillies played *Ranald MacDonald of Moray's Lament* to win third prize, and Colin MacCallum took fourth prize with *The Blue Ribbon*.

There were some good tunes to be heard in the Silver Medal competition. Winning the Silver Medal makes the winner eligible to compete for the Gold Medal. Sergeant Lewis Barclay, of The Highlanders, won the Silver Medal with *The MacGregor's Salute*. James MacPhee came second with *Glengarry's March*. In third place, Andrew Mathieson played *MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's Lament* (No 1). Despite its name, *The Little Spire* has been described as an unusually and lament. Stuart Cassels took fourth prize with his performance. In fifth place, Ann Gray played *Tulloch Ard*.

The judges were full of enthusiasm for the standard of piping in the Highland Society of London's MacGregor Memorial. Each competitor had to play a selection of tunes, who must be aged 21 or younger, each submit four tunes of their choice, and have to play two. It is quite a hard test for a young piper. There were one or two harsh-sounding pipes, but the performances were very encouraging for the future of piping.

Matthew MacIsaac won first prize, which includes a £300 bursary for further tuition. He played *Queen Anne's Lament*, and *MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's Lament* (No 1).

Another junior competition, the march, strategy and reel, for the Duke of Argyll's Medal, open to pipers resident in Argyll who are under 16 years of age, was won by Laura MacCallum.

The first day of the gathering always ends with the march, strategy and reel for previous winners of the competition. The marches, and for strathspeys and reels. This was won by Alasdair Gillies, who thereby also won the Royal Celtic Society's prize for the best overall piper.
The Gold Tunes: James Murray 2, Logan Tannock 3, Alan Brown 4, Alan Russell 5, Michael Cluskey 6, William MacCallum 7, Alasdair Gillies 8, Colin MacCallum 9, Andrew Mathieson 10, Stuart Cassels 11, James MacPhee 12, Michael Cluskey 13, William MacCallum 14, Alasdair Gillies 15, Colin MacCallum 16, Andrew Mathieson 17, Stuart Cassels 18, James MacPhee 19, Michael Cluskey 20, William MacCallum 21, Alasdair Gillies 22, Colin MacCallum 23, Andrew Mathieson 24, Stuart Cassels 25, James MacPhee 26, Michael Cluskey 27, William MacCallum 28, Alasdair Gillies 29, Colin MacCallum 30, Andrew Mathieson 31, Stuart Cassels 32, James MacPhee 33, Michael Cluskey 34, William MacCallum 35, Alasdair Gillies 36, Colin MacCallum 37, Andrew Mathieson 38, Stuart Cassels 39, James MacPhee 40, Michael Cluskey 41, William MacCallum 42, Alasdair Gillies 43, Colin MacCallum 44, Andrew Mathieson 45, Stuart Cassels 46, James MacPhee 47, Michael Cluskey 48, William MacCallum 49, Alasdair Gillies 50, Colin MacCallum 51, Andrew Mathieson 52, Stuart Cassels 53, James MacPhee 54, Michael Cluskey 55, William MacCallum 56, Alasdair Gillies 57, Colin MacCallum 58, Andrew Mathieson 59, Stuart Cassels 60, James MacPhee 61, Michael Cluskey 62, William MacCallum 63, Alasdair Gillies 64, Colin MacCallum 65, Andrew Mathieson 66, Stuart Cassels 67, James MacPhee 68, Michael Cluskey 69, William MacCallum 70, Alasdair Gillies 71, Colin MacCallum 72, Andrew Mathieson 73, Stuart Cassels 74, James MacPhee 75, Michael Cluskey 76, William MacCallum 77, Alasdair Gillies 78, Colin MacCallum 79, Andrew Mathieson 80, Stuart Cassels 81, James MacPhee 82, Michael Cluskey 83, William MacCallum 84, Alasdair Gillies 85, Colin MacCallum 86, Andrew Mathieson 87, Stuart Cassels 88, James MacPhee 89, Michael Cluskey 90, William MacCallum 91, Alasdair Gillies 92, Colin MacCallum 93, Andrew Mathieson 94, Stuart Cassels 95, James MacPhee 96, Michael Cluskey 97, William MacCallum 98, Alasdair Gillies 99, Colin MacCallum 100, Andrew Mathieson 101, Stuart Cassels 102, James MacPhee 103, Michael Cluskey 104, William MacCallum 105, Alasdair Gillies 106, Colin MacCallum 107, Andrew Mathieson 108, Stuart Cassels 109, James MacPhee 110, Michael Cluskey 111, William MacCallum 112, Alasdair Gillies 113, Colin MacCallum 114, Andrew Mathieson 115, Stuart Cassels 116, James MacPhee 117, Michael Cluskey 118, William MacCallum 119, Alasdair Gillies 120, Colin MacCallum 121, Andrew Mathieson 122, Stuart Cassels 123, James MacPhee 124, Michael Cluskey 125, William MacCallum 126, Alasdair Gillies 127, Colin MacCallum 128, Andrew Mathieson 129, Stuart Cassels 130, James MacPhee 131, Michael Cluskey 132, William MacCallum 133, Alasdair Gillies 134, Colin MacCallum 135, Andrew Mathieson 136, Stuart Cassels 137, James MacPhee 138, Michael Cluskey 139, William MacCallum 140, Alasdair Gillies 141, Colin MacCallum 142, Andrew Mathieson 143, Stuart Cassels 144, James MacPhee 145, Michael Cluskey 146, William MacCallum 147, Alasdair Gillies 148, Colin MacCallum 149, Andrew Mathieson 150, Stuart Cassels 151, James MacPhee 152, Michael Cluskey 153, William MacCallum 154, Alasdair Gillies 155, Colin MacCallum 156, Andrew Mathieson 157, Stuart Cassels 158, James MacPhee 159, Michael Cluskey 160, William MacCallum 161, Alasdair Gillies 162, Colin MacCallum 163, Andrew Mathieson 164, Stuart Cassels 165, James MacPhee 166, Michael Cluskey 167, William MacCallum 168, Alasdair Gillies 169, Colin MacCallum 170, Andrew Mathieson 171, Stuart Cassels 172, James MacPhee 173, Michael Cluskey 174, William MacCallum 175, Alasdair Gillies 176, Colin MacCallum 177, Andrew Mathieson 178, Stuart Cassels 179, James MacPhee 180, Michael Cluskey 181, William MacCallum 182, Alasdair Gillies 183, Colin MacCallum 184, Andrew Mathieson 185, Stuart Cassels 186, James MacPhee 187, Michael Cluskey 188, William MacCallum 189, Alasdair Gillies 190, Colin MacCallum 191, Andrew Mathieson 192, Stuart Cassels 193, James MacPhee 194, Michael Cluskey 195, William MacCallum 196, Alasdair Gillies 197, Colin MacCallum 198, Andrew Mathieson 199, Stuart Cassels 200, James MacPhee 201, Michael Cluskey 202, William MacCallum 203, Alasdair Gillies 204, Colin MacCallum 205, Andrew Mathieson 206, Stuart Cassels 207, James MacPhee 208, Michael Cluskey 209, William MacCallum 210, Alasdair Gillies 211, Colin MacCallum 212, Andrew Mathieson 213, Stuart Cassels 214, James MacPhee 215, Michael Cluskey 216, William MacCallum 217, Alasdair Gillies 218, Colin MacCallum 219, Andrew Mathieson 220, Stuart Cassels 221, James MacPhee 222, Michael Cluskey 223, William MacCallum 224, Alasdair Gillies 225, Colin MacCallum 226, Andrew Mathieson 227, Stuart Cassels 228, James MacPhee 229, Michael Cluskey 230, William MacCallum 231, Alasdair Gillies 232, Colin MacCallum 233, Andrew Mathieson 234, Stuart Cassels 235, James MacPhee 236, Michael Cluskey 237, William MacCallum 238, Alasdair Gillies 239, Colin MacCallum 240, Andrew Mathieson 241, Stuart Cassels 242, James MacPhee 243, Michael Cluskey 244, William MacCallum 245, Alasdair Gillies 246, Colin MacCallum 247, Andrew Mathieson 248, Stuart Cassels 249, James MacPhee 250, Michael Cluskey 251, William MacCallum 252, Alasdair Gillies 253, Colin MacCallum 254, Andrew Mathieson 255, Stuart Cassels 256, James MacPhee 257, Michael Cluskey 258, William MacCallum 259, Alasdair Gillies 260, Colin MacCallum 261, Andrew Mathieson 262, Stuart Cassels 263, James MacPhee 264, Michael Cluskey 265, William MacCallum 266, Alasdair Gillies 267, Colin MacCallum 268, Andrew Mathieson 269, Stuart Cassels 270, James MacPhee 271, Michael Cluskey 272, William MacCallum 273, Alasdair Gillies 274, Colin MacCallum 275, Andrew Mathieson 276, Stuart Cassels 277, James MacPhee 278, Michael Cluskey 279, William MacCallum 280, Alasdair Gillies 281, Colin MacCallum 282, Andrew Mathieson 283, Stuart Cassels 284, James MacPhee 285, Michael Cluskey 286, William MacCallum 287, Alasdair Gillies 288, Colin MacCallum 289, Andrew Mathieson 290, Stuart Cassels 291, James MacPhee 292, Michael Cluskey 293, William MacCallum 294, Alasdair Gillies 295, Colin MacCallum 296, Andrew Mathieson 297, Stuart Cassels 298, James MacPhee 299, Michael Cluskey 300, William MacCallum 301, Alasdair Gillies 302, Colin MacCallum 303, Andrew Mathieson 304, Stuart Cassels 305, James MacPhee 306, Michael Cluskey 307, William MacCallum 308, Alasdair Gillies 309, Colin MacCallum 310, Andrew Mathieson 311, Stuart Cassels 312, James MacPhee 313, Michael Cluskey 314, William MacCallum 315, Alasdair Gillies 316, Colin MacCallum 317, Andrew Mathieson 318, Stuart Cassels 319, James MacPhee 320, Michael Cluskey 321, William MacCallum 322, Alasdair Gillies 323, Colin MacCallum 324, Andrew Mathieson 325, Stuart Cassels 326, James MacPhee 327, Michael Cluskey 328, William MacCallum 329, Alasdair Gillies 330, Colin MacCallum 331, Andrew Mathieson 332, Stuart Cassels 333, James MacPhee 334, Michael Cluskey 335, William MacCallum 336, Alasdair Gillies 337, Colin MacCallum 338, Andrew Mathieson 339, Stuart Cassels 340, James MacPhee 341, Michael Cluskey 342, William MacCallum 343, Alasdair Gillies 344, Colin MacCallum 345, Andrew Mathieson 346, Stuart Cassels 347, James MacPhee 348, Michael Cluskey 349, William MacCallum 350, Alasdair Gillies 351, Colin MacCallum 352, Andrew Mathieson 353, Stuart Cassels 354, James MacPhee 355, Michael Cluskey 356, William MacCallum 357, Alasdair Gillies 358, Colin MacCallum 359, Andrew Mathieson 360, Stuart Cassels 361, James MacPhee 362, Michael Cluskey 363, William MacCallum 364, Alasdair Gillies 365, Colin MacCallum 366, Andrew Mathieson 367, Stuart Cassels 368, James MacPhee 369, Michael Cluskey 370, William MacCallum 371, Alasdair Gillies 372, Colin MacCallum 373, Andrew Mathieson 374, Stuart Cassels 375, James MacPhee 376, Michael Cluskey 377, William MacCallum 378, Alasdair Gillies 379, Colin MacCallum 380, Andrew Mathieson 381, Stuart Cassels 382, James MacPhee 383, Michael Cluskey 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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1997

Brussels to steer away from new laws on jobs

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL
EDITOR

BRUSSELS will today announce a new European jobs programme that will explicitly shift away from bringing in new cross-European laws to govern employment.

Business leaders in Britain will welcome the move, which follows a call yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry for a complete overhaul of European social policy.

Today, at the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress, the European Commission will announce a new European social programme (ESP), to be launched by the Commission next year.

Previous social action programmes from Brussels led to major clashes between Europe and the Conservative Government, and to new laws giving,

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for example, greater leave entitlements to pregnant women, requiring multinational companies to set up works councils to consult with employees, and setting maximum working times.

Padraig Flynn, the EU's Social Affairs Commissioner, will tell the TUC in Brighton that the new European social programme will differ from previous sets of employment measures by not being a stand-alone approach to social and employment issues.

He will insist that the "main preoccupation" of the new programme "will be improving the prospects for employment". Instead of being based on a wholly legislative approach, in which the Commission brings forward new laws for EU member states to consider, and eventually implement, the new programme will take wider strategic and



Adair Turner addressing the TUC in Brighton yesterday in only the second appearance by a leader of the CBI

economic considerations into account and will not necessarily move as a first resort to new legislation.

He will tell the TUC: "There is no conspiracy or hidden agenda. Instead, there is a clear mechanism for examining what steps are necessary."

EU officials suggest that the new programme might cover areas such as the organisation of work, about which the Commission has a consultative Green Paper at present, which aims to strike a balance between business's need for

flexibility, and employees' need for job security. It would be likely to promote framework agreements between employers' and employees' organisations, rather than to lay down centrally directed legislation on jobs.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, told the TUC yesterday that there was "something wrong in European labour markets" if the result was 12 per cent unemployment in Europe, compared with 5 per cent in the

US, and the creation of only four million European jobs since 1980, compared with 25 million in America.

In only the second appearance at a TUC conference by a CBI leader, Mr Turner said that unions' favourable attitude towards Europe, and especially its social legislation, was "driven by your sense of exclusion from government in the UK" in the Conservative years, and the belief that "Europe would deliver objectives denied you by national government".

He emphasised the need now for Britain to consider whether action on employment law at European rather than national level was appropriate. Mr Turner said: "We both therefore have the chance to approach the European social agenda in a new spirit, and one thing that spirit should mean is an open-minded review of what should be covered by European-level legislation and what not — where European-level competence should end and national sovereignty begins."

Guaranteed schemes under fire as NU unveils plan

By CAROLINE MERRELL

NORWICH UNION has become the latest insurance company to offer a guaranteed scheme for those who have been mis-sold a personal pension. But as the company revealed its plans, a leading firm of lawyers criticised such schemes as full of potential loopholes.

The insurance company is offering the scheme in an effort to meet a deadline set by the Treasury for dealing with priority cases. Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury, has given warning that the Government will take extreme action against companies that fail to meet the November deadline.

Norwich Union, which floated on the stock market earlier this year, said it is reviewing more than 6,000 personal pension policies. Those encouraged by NU to give up occupational schemes in favour of taking out personal pensions are to be offered a written promise that they will be reinstated into their company schemes.

But guaranteed schemes, which are also offered by Prudential and Legal & General, have attracted criticism. Ringrose Wharton, solicitors acting for hundreds of victims of mis-selling, claim that policyholders who accept guarantees could be worse off than those who wait for full reinstatement. NU has refused to say how much has been set aside for compensation.

Yesterday the company reported a decline in first-half pre-tax profits to £335 million (£528 million). Operating profit was £288 million. Allan Bridgewater, group chief executive, said comparisons with the first half of last year were difficult because it was a mutual organisation at that time. He said:

"We think that it represents an 8 per cent to 10 per cent increase on the previous year."

NU's life and pensions business contributed £247 million to profits, while its general insurance business contributed £41 million. UK life and pensions increased new business by 17 per cent over 1996, which Norwich Union said reflected the strength of its product range. It said that the UK general insurance business had done well to make a £37 million profit in the current market conditions.

Mr Bridgewater played down the bid speculation that has surrounded NU since flotation. The company also said that it was not actively looking to buy another company. He said: "Norwich Union is now well placed to continue to develop its business." NU will not declare a dividend until June next year. Earnings per share were 11.5p.

The company came to the stock market in June when it handed out free shares worth an average £1,000 to its three million policyholders.

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STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4905.2	(-45.3)
Yield	3.38%	
FTSE All share	2316.01	(-17.10)
Nikkei	16704.77	(+8.80)
New York	7782.91	(-58.00)*
Dow Jones	927.29	(-6.33)*
S&P Composite		

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	96 1/2%	(96 1/2%)
Yield	6.66%	(6.66%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt		
Future (Dec)	114 1/4%	(114 1/4%)

STERLING

New York		
\$	1.5890*	(1.5897)
London		
£	1.5883	(1.5905)
DM	2.2577	(2.2805)
FF	6.6054	(6.6322)
Sfr	2.3510	(2.3577)
Yen	189.00	(189.37)
£ Index	99.9	(100.4)

DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.7965*	(1.8150)
FF	6.0425*	(6.1025)
Sfr	1.4770*	(1.4882)
Yen	118.15*	(118.58)
£ Index	105.6	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 119.31

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.50	(\$18.40)
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GOLD

London close	\$321.25	(\$321.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

Selling

Williams, the fire and security group, is expected to sell Nu-Tone, its US business, which makes door chimes and intercoms, and will review whether it will sell its home improvements side in the next couple of months. Page 27

Promise

Associated British Ports has promised quicker returns from future investment projects after revealing a rise in pre-tax profits to £51.5 million. It indicated that share buybacks are unlikely. Page 29

Tesco to step up hypermarkets war

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TESCO, the leading supermarket group, is set to increase pressure on its rivals J Sainsbury and Asda by stepping up its programme of hypermarket openings.

The company opened its first hypermarket, an expanded 103,000 sq ft store at Pitsea in Essex, in June. It recently received planning permission for two more Tesco Extra stores, at Weston Favell, Northampton, and on the site of an old London Brick works at Peterborough.

A spokesman for Tesco said: "These are the only two that are definite." He was unaware if other stores were in the pipeline. "Pitsea has been highly successful," he added.

Analysts believe that the company is tight-lipped about other planning applications because of the local sensitivities involved. David McCarthy, of BZW, reckons that the

company could be planning to open up to 50 hypermarkets in Britain, if planning permission could be obtained. Although the Government is theoretically opposed to large out-of-town developments, Tesco plans to extend existing supermarkets and may find it easier to win approval.

Hypermarkets, which are far larger than the average out-of-town superstore, contain a wide range of food, clothing and other ranges. Asda has done most to develop very large stores. Sainsbury's Savacentres are the other main operators in the area.

A strong buy note from BZW helped to boost Tesco's shares by 7p to 437p yesterday. Mr McCarthy believes Tesco's UK earnings could rise 50 per cent in the next four years to £20 billion. Analysts are also excited by the prospects for Tesco in eastern Europe.

Caradon director to leave

TREFOR LLEWELLYN, finance director of Caradon for the past two years, is stepping down after institutional shareholder concern over his previous role at Wickes, the DIY chain that discovered a £50 million hole in its accounts last year.

Mr Llewellyn was finance director of Wickes and repaid a £485,000 bonus for 1995. He was one of a number of executives who left after accounting irregularities came to light.

He will remain with Caradon as corporate development director, in charge of acquisitions, disposals and information technology, but will leave the board. Martin Clark, finance director of Associated British Foods, will replace him as finance director on October 1.

The Wickes irregularities are the subject of a Serious Fraud Office inquiry.

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Poor sales, page 30

Pound falls in wake of Bank interest rate hints

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JANET BUSH

THE pound fell to a three-month low as the Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC) began its monthly meeting. The committee is widely expected to leave interest rates on hold, which would further undermine sterling.

The pound's trade-weighted index dropped below 100 for the first time since mid-June, closing down 0.5 at 99.9. The pound also lost ground against the mark, falling more than two pence to DM2.6381 after stronger than expected German GDP figures.

Sterling has been under pressure since the Bank of England dropped a strong hint last month that it wanted to pause before making further rate rises. At the same time, expectations have risen that the Bundesbank may increase German rates.

DeAnne Julius, former chief economist at British Airways,

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is attending the MPC for the first time. Ms Julius, appointed at the beginning of June, is widely seen in the City as a likely "dove" on inflation.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, today chairs the inaugural meeting of an advisory group which will look at the practical effects of economic and monetary union on business and industry. Described

as a nuts-and-bolts committee, rather than a forum for policy ideas, it represents many groups with an interest in preparing for EMU, whether or not Britain joins. They include the Confederation of British Industry, the Trades Union Congress and consumer and financial groups.

The Bank of England is represented by two officials who have worked extensively on practical preparations for EMU with banks, the financial services industry and financial market players.

Until the election, the Bank had taken a lead in helping business, as well as the City, to prepare for EMU. This was largely because the issue was so contentious within the Conservative Party that the previous government did not want to be seen addressing these questions. Under the new regime, the Treasury has taken a lead.

Hollick pleads for fairer broadcasting tax

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR



Hollick "dog's dinner"

LORD HOLICK, chief executive of United News and Media, yesterday called on the Government to consider introducing a broadcasting tax on all commercial broadcasters — cable and satellite as well as conventional commercial television.

"The Government has inherited a dog's dinner of a taxation system where ITV bears the brunt of it," said Lord Hollick, who controls about 24 per cent of ITV advertising through Meridian, Anglia and HTV, United's three ITV subsidiaries. ITV pays around £400 million a year in special taxes to the Government and the

Independent Television Commission is beginning a review of how ITV licences should be valued in future.

United, which also publishes The Express, said yesterday that it wanted to see a system of taxation of broadcasters "which spreads the burden in a more equitable way than the present arrangements".

The appeal to the Government came as United announced a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £174 million for the six months to June, before exceptional items and the cost of the company's 29 per cent stake in Channel 5.

Lord Hollick said yesterday that he did not think the means of delivery should determine whether a broadcaster paid special tax. "British Sky Broadcasting is the biggest and most successful broadcaster in the UK and it does not pay [any special broadcasting tax]," Lord Hollick said. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Lord Hollick, a Labour peer, is a special adviser to the Trade and Industry department, but said yesterday that he does not get involved in Government media policy. In fact, so far, the Culture, Media and Sports

department has shown little interest in a general broadcasting tax and any broadcasting legislation is probably at least two years off.

With the help of the acquisition of Blenheim, the exhibition group, business services now account for 45 per cent of United's operating profit. Earnings per share before exceptional items and Channel 5 rose 15 per cent, to 24.2p, and group operating margin rose from 15.4 per cent to 18 per cent. The interim dividend is increased to 11p a share, from 8p, to have a more equal balance between the interim and final dividend.

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THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS IN BRIGHTON

Anger at privatisation by back door

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNIONS pledged to mount a challenge to the Government's strong support for the Private Finance Initiative and threatened to take the dispute to the Labour Party conference next month.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of Unison, the public services union, led criticism of the PFI, the scheme to involve private cash in public building, at Brighton yesterday.

Mr Bickerstaffe attacked the

Government for classifying spending on public services as debt. He said: "It is not seen that way anywhere else and the Government should try and come into line with the rest of the world." He had told congress: "The old dogmas you know are just going to have to go. And the first dogma to drop is that if it's public it is always bad, and if it is private it is always good."

Earlier in the day Mr Bickerstaffe had delivered a stinging rebuke to Tony Blair over calls made in his TUC

speech on Tuesday for unions to join the real world. Mr Bickerstaffe's jibes at Labour's increased emphasis on reality and flexibility were backed by other union leaders.

into the private sector and to business wielding influence over public policy, he said: "I live in the real world, I work in the real world."

Mary Turner, of the GMB

PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE

Chris Murphy of Ucat, the builders union, said he was astounded at "being lectured all week to live in the real world". Arguing that PFI leads to public employees being suddenly transferred

general union, said: "We've been more flexible than Access... we're not going to be flexible anymore."

Angela Palmer of PTC, the public services, tax and commerce union, said PFI re-

quired long-term contracts with private companies. She said that while Mr Blair spoke about real difficulties and real events, those real difficulties were being experienced by people such as those using the DSS's services.

Denny Hardy, president of the Society of Radiographers, told congress that PFI stood for "profit from illness" with private companies employing cheaper staff without national standard training.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, said the

PFI meant "we are mortgaging the future of our public services and the next generation will pick up the tab".

PFI, which was launched by the Conservatives, has been endorsed by the Labour Government as a means of bringing investment to public infrastructure without committing more public spending to expensive projects such as hospitals and roads. However, it has come in for heavy criticism from unions for producing privatisation by the back door.

Big two cast shadow over EMU policy

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S biggest unions signalled growing scepticism over European economic and monetary union by declaring their increasing concern at supporting the UK's early entry into a single currency.

The clear warnings from two of the TUC's largest unions may herald a watering down of the TUC's policy of supporting the UK's full participation in a single currency.

Congress approved a policy document on the next steps for Britain's unions in Europe, including its EMU policy. Although TUC leaders insist

now clearly not compatible with union objectives of full employment. He said the granting of operational independence to the Bank of England and four interest rate rises since the election showed what would be likely to happen under EMU, with rates set by a European central bank.

Mr Morris said: "Why, oh why do we insist on being on the fast track? Ahead of public opinion, ahead of all major political parties, ahead of the CBI. We are not arguing to stop the train. We are just asking for it to be slowed down so that we can at least read the route map."

Mr Morris's criticism was echoed by Unison, the public services union. Dave Prentis, deputy general secretary, said his union had "growing concern and reservations" about EMU. Entering the single currency under the wrong circumstances, he said, would be a "disaster for all of us".

But Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU engineering union, attacked Unison and the TGWU for diluting their commitment to EMU. He said: "Trade unions have led the way on Europe since 1983, but now, just as we have a chance to turn some of our visions into reality, other unions are getting the jitters."

that their policy to support joining EMU was only reached on balance after a close study of its implications, the TUC is more strongly pro-EMU than the major political parties, business generally and other UK institutions.

Both Unison and the TGWU, the TUC's biggest affiliated unions, made it clear that they no longer supported the TUC's policy of EMU entry because of what they see as the threat to jobs in Britain of a single currency.

Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, told congress that joining a single currency was



In training: Margaret Beckett, John Monks, centre, and Adair Turner at Ericsson's open learning centre yesterday

Jobs network put to the test

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, were looking for jobs yesterday (Christine Buckley writes).

Plugged into a computer-

based job network designed for apprentices, the joint forces of government, industry and the union movement had assembled at the training centre of Ericsson, the mobile phone group, to see the much-vaunted partnership of busi-

ness and employees at work. "Modern apprenticeships never end," declared Mrs Beckett, after being told that Ericsson has a rolling programme to update technical skills training in an effort to keep pace with the swiftly developing world of telecoms.

The modern squeaky-clean offices of Ericsson's main UK base in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, are a far cry from the Swedish company's origins in Britain. When Ericsson began manufacturing in the UK 100 years ago, several hundred workers in Nottingham toiled at making phones. Now it is hard to spot the 1,200 staff. "Where are our members?" joked Ken Jackson, leader of the AEEU, as he looked in on deserted testing laboratories.

Ericsson, which says it has good working relations with the AEEU, maintains it is committed to training to hold on to its staff. Mr Jackson believes that is true. "It is one of the better employers, both in terms of training and working conditions."

Terry Henson, Ericsson's managing director of business networks, told Mrs Beck-

ett that most of the company's senior managers started life as apprentices. Training is also geared to expanding the skills base of apprentices and other staff so that they can slot into a number of roles at the mobile phone company, which employs more than 3,500 staff in Britain.

For Mr Turner the efforts of individual companies such as Ericsson show that employment co-operation operates effectively. The CBI head, anxious to appear positive about greater links with the unions but also committed to stressing the problems - is keen to highlight the co-operation that exists without the rigours of statutory requirements. He said: "New unionism focuses heavily on skills and flexibility. Training is an important part of making that work."

Ericsson is expanding by 20 per cent a year worldwide. Its UK operations are trying to achieve a similar rate. But productivity and technological advances will fuel the growth rather than staff expansion, the company said. The jobber that Mrs Beckett, Mr Turner and Mr Monks combed through may be more flexible but it may not necessarily grow.

Unison to lead revolt against electricity plan

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A PLAN by the Trades Union Congress to sell electricity and gas will today face a revolt from a large section of the union movement led by Unison, Britain's biggest union.

Yesterday, opposition to Unison Energy, a company set up by the TUC to sell household electricity and gas in the deregulating markets, was growing, with at least five unions committed to voting for the business to be abolished. John Tilley, of the RMT rail union, said: "The TUC has modernised in recent years

gas to union members. Instead, it could distance itself from the company, leaving those unions that support it to form their own links. But TUC officials are confident that Unison Energy has enough support to carry it through. Unison will say that the TUC has not considered the problems facing staff in the gas and electricity markets. Its motion says: "For the TUC to create another company in direct competition with existing companies and staff is, at best, misplaced. At worst it is a selfish attempt to secure benefits for some members while gambling with the jobs of others."

The Communication Workers Union is believed to be ready to back Unison along with Aslef and a couple of other unions. A spokesman for Aslef said: "We don't like the idea of the TUC making profits from privatisation."

Peter Ibbotson, a founder of Unison Energy, said the company had been created to help members to get cheaper power. "This has been set up by the TUC to give the members the advantage of collective bargaining for their own benefit."

POWER SALES

but to go down this road into corporate business is not what trade unionism is about. We have seen many job losses in privatisation - the TUC should not be endorsing it."

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

CIA and WPP plan co-operation talks

CIA GROUP, Europe's second-largest independent media buyer, is to meet next week with WPP, the advertising group, to discuss areas of mutual co-operation. The meetings come four months after WPP's surprise purchase of a 12.7 per cent of CIA. But Chris Ingram, CIA's chairman, said the discussions should not be taken as evidence that CIA considers WPP a long-term strategic partner. "We think remaining independent is very important."

CIA's directors and employees control 40 per cent of the equity. But the company is not considered large enough to make a significant impact on the market and has been struggling to raise its margins, while WPP has been trying to strengthen its media-buying operations. CIA reported to strengthen its pre-tax profits of £3.5 million, up 2 per cent, in the half-year to June 30, on turnover of £444 million, up 17 per cent. Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 3.52p. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 0.64p. *Tempus*, page 28

Landhurst duo on trial

TWO former directors of Landhurst Leasing, which provided funds for the Brabham Formula One and Team Lotus racing teams, go on trial at the Old Bailey today. Ted Ball, the company's founder, and David Ashworth, the former finance director, deny conspiring to defraud a syndicate of banks led by Guinness Mahon, who provided £120 million in financing. They further deny receiving £395,000 in alleged "kickbacks" from executives of Middlebridge Group, which ran Brabham.

Fine Art warning

FINE ART DEVELOPMENTS, the mail order and stationery group, has given warning that it is likely to suffer a £6.5 million charge on the disposal of Dee Group, its loss-making women's wear division. Dee's disposal comes after a failed attempt to resuscitate the division after it made £3 million loss. The company is demerging its greeting card division on October 6. Shares in Creative Publishing, the new business, are being offered on a 1-for-1 basis. *Fine Art* shares fell 4p to 330p.

Christie's advances

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL, the art auctioneer, hopes to raise £125 million (£79 million) from the sale this autumn of the Ganz collection of modern and contemporary art in New York. In the half year to June 30, pre-tax profits rose 20 per cent to £19 million, or 7.13p a share, on sales of £557 million, up 15 per cent. The biggest single contributor to the growth was the sale of the Loeb collection of impressionist pictures, which raised \$93 million. The interim rises 17 per cent to 1.4p.

MIN expects approval

MIDLAND INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS (MIN), owner of *The Birmingham Post*, said it expects the Government to approve the £300 million sale of the company to Mirror Group by mid-October. In its last interim results as a listed company, Midland reported a 64 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £13.6 million, or 6.63p a share. The sale of loss-making titles and the purchase of profitable titles were behind the better results. The interim rises 54 per cent to 2p.

Saltire shares slide

SHARES of Saltire lost 26 per cent of their value as the electronic equipment distributor blamed the strength of the pound, a sluggish mail order market and the Romanian economy for a record interim loss. The company said its full-year results would be below market expectations although some recovery should come through in the second half. Half-time losses equated to 6.8p a share, against earnings of 5.02p last time. The shares fell 7p to a four-year low of 26½p.

Biocompatibles blow

SHARES in Biocompatibles International, the healthcare company, fell a further 32½p yesterday, bringing the total loss over two days to 577½p, wiping £440 million off its market value. Earlier this year the company was worth more than £1 billion. The collapse was sparked by the refusal of the company's American partner, Johnson & Johnson, to license its flagship product. Biocompatibles says it is in talks with several companies for a new licensing deal.

Bostrom disposal costly

BOSTROM, which designs and manufactures advanced suspension seating for vehicles, saw pre-tax profits at half-year fall to £250,000 (£3.02 million) after a £3.26 million charge for disposing of two loss-making divisions. Farndon Engineering and KAS Rail were sold for £1.52 million last month, leaving a £2.15 million write-off against goodwill. Overall, the company suffered a loss per share of 5.2p, (11.9p earnings last time). The interim, due on December 12, rises to 3p (2.9p).

BDO earnings rise 14%

PARTNERS in BDO Stoy Hayward, the UK's eighth-largest accountancy firm, earned an average of £105,000 each last year, a rise of 14 per cent. The two highest-paid partners earned between £300,001 and £325,000. Fee income rose 6.1 per cent to £106.4 million (£100.3 million) in the year to March 31; audit and accounting was £54.6 million (£50.4 million); tax consultancy £24.9 million (£22.5 million); and corporate finance £8.4 million (£5.4 million).

WH Smith books' gift

WH SMITH, the retail group, is to donate reading books to more than 400 primary schools over the next five years. The initiative, costing about £150,000 per year, should put about half a million books into the hands of 75,000 children. The money will come from the company's budget for community spending. All the schools will receive a catalogue this month from which to select books for next term. Thereafter books will be provided at the start of each academic year.

Psion licensing deal

PSION shares rose 17p to 419½p after the company licensed its EPOC32 operating system to Philips Consumer Electronics for use in a range of pocket-sized data and messaging products. However, analysts pointed out it had already been revealed that Psion had major third party licensees for the system and no real impact on figures is expected until 1999. Philips has only about 5 per cent of the mobile phone market in Europe, and is not yet a player in the US.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.29	Bank	2.11	Bank
Belgium Sfr	21.11	Bank	19.45	Bank
Canada \$	62.22	Bank	57.26	Bank
Czech Kor	2.27	Bank	2.18	Bank
Cyprus Cyp£	0.867	Bank	0.818	Bank
Denmark Kr	11.47	Bank	10.56	Bank
Finland Mk	9.10	Bank	8.56	Bank
France Fr	10.08	Bank	9.50	Bank
Germany Dm	3.02	Bank	2.79	Bank
Greece Dr	4.76	Bank	4.26	Bank
Hong Kong \$	13.14	Bank	11.94	Bank
Iceland Iskr	128	Bank	108	Bank
Ireland Ir£	1.12	Bank	1.03	Bank
Israel Shk	5.80	Bank	5.20	Bank
Italy Lit	2867	Bank	2720	Bank
Japan Yen	304.55	Bank	284.55	Bank

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Beware a too congenial Ken



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Landing the former Chancellor of the Exchequer as chairman might be regarded as something of a coup for a middle-sized company like UniChem. Maybe the added kudos is worth the £120,000 Kenneth Clarke is to be paid for putting in a day and a half to two days a week.

Clearly, the company has an affinity with former ministers, since it is Lord Rippon, a one-time Tory foreign secretary, whom Mr Clarke is to replace. No doubt UniChem believes that it is acquiring the services of a brilliant mind and some carefully attuned political antennae, always useful for a company operating in a heavily regulated area such as pharmaceuticals. Perhaps it also expects to benefit from the insights Mr Clarke gained in his spell as Health Secretary, although his smoking habits might indicate that these were limited.

Well, perhaps. But the real advantage of recruiting Ken Clarke was surely summed up by UniChem's chief executive, Jeff Harris, who greeted the appointment as "excellent news", explaining: "He has wide experience, is very congenial and just the right man for the job."

Those enthusiastic sentiments should put UniChem investors on red alert. If being "congenial" is part of the job description, there is something very much amiss, but far from uncommon. Despite all the screeds that

have been written on the subject of corporate governance, many boardrooms are still filled on the same principles as the membership lists of London's clubs.

Of course, it is crucial that the members of a board should be able to co-exist without any outright hostility, but the perfect blueprint for corporate governance demands mutual respect rather than chumminess.

The chairman and other non-executives need to provide support for their executives but also, on occasion, to knock the management back into line. George Simpson, the GEC chief executive, may be about to be ennobled, but the company's chairman and remuneration committee, boasting a few titles themselves, should have been able to tell him to stop being so greedy on his executives' behalf.

It is rare for institutional investors to feel quite as aggrieved as they did over GEC's behaviour. Now, if they want to avoid a possible repeat of that performance, they should be preparing to examine the choice of GEC's next chairman with eagle eyes.

For the soon to be Lord Simpson is likely, like Jeff Harris, to favour a chairman whom

he would count "congenial". If this were to be interpreted, for instance, as ruling out anyone of a different political persuasion, it would amount to an unjustifiable narrowing of the field.

Cosy double acts at the top of the corporate tree rarely work to the advantage of shareholders. At MEPC, for instance, Lord Blakenham and James Tuckey got on famously. Harsh words on improving performance might have spoiled a beautiful friendship.

Caution is still the best policy

The harsh lash of Mrs Helen Liddell's tongue does seem to be spurring those pensions mis-sellers into action. While her "naming and shaming" policy may have made little impression on customers, who remain remarkably lethargic when it comes to handling their financial affairs, the pros-

pect of being barred from future government-generated business is a threat which the insurance companies understand.

Norwich Union is the latest to plump for the simplest possible way of looking at it if it intends to behave itself. Yesterday it announced that it will give unfortunate victims of its over-enthusiastic sales teams a guarantee that they will be reinstated in their company pension scheme, or that they will not suffer financially as a result of buying a personal pension.

This deft manoeuvre means that NU, and the others offering "guarantees" such as the Prudential and Legal & General, will now be able to meet the strict deadlines laid down by the Government for offering redress to pension mis-selling victims. When Legal & General first suggested this method of clearing up the mess, the Personal Investment Authority was unimpressed. The fact that a guarantee from the

companies might have put at rest the minds of thousands of worried investors did not influence the regulator's thinking. Instead, the PIA wanted to see cases dealt with individually, ignoring the undeniably accurate plaint of the insurers that this would take time.

Somewhere along the line, the regulator appears to have been persuaded to change its stance. Perhaps it was a dose of Liddell lashing that helped the PIA, led by Colette Bowe, to see the wisdom of a promise to see them right being acceptable as a means of safeguarding the rights of pensioners. The Treasury certainly left Ms Bowe in no doubt that they did not feel she had been effective enough in sorting out the problems, and that she might not feel she had a long-term career in financial regulation ahead of her.

But she may have been right to have qualms about allowing the mis-sellers the easy escape route

of a guarantee. Sceptics fear the promises could be full of holes and that policyholders might not automatically end up with the same benefits as those who remained in company schemes.

Already cheated once by the pension providers, policyholders could end up losing out a second time unless the agreements are backed by legal indemnities.

It's all change at the Co-op

The saddest thing about Andrew Regan's abortive attempt to take over the Co-op was that the target was so deserving of attack.

It did not take sheafs of insider information to spell out that the CWS was being allowed to wither for want of energetic leadership and vision, but it did require a more credible bidder than the ambitious Master Regan to mount a rescue.

Yesterday Terry Thomas, who has turned the Co-op Bank (hardly any relation) into a success story, offered his thoughts on how the CWS could be revived. Mr Thomas, another individual soon to be elevated to the House of Lords, takes the far

from revolutionary view that the various Co-op businesses would benefit from joining forces. Given the fact that supermarkets are now racing each other to offer financial services to their customers, the Co-op would be well placed to at least join the fray, even if it has missed the opportunity for trail blazing.

We must wait until November to hear what plans the CWS has devised for its salvation, but the likelihood is they will bear more resemblance to Mr Thomas's ideas than Andrew Regan's radical, and perfectly profit-oriented, plans for asset stripping the business.

It may be that the shock of recent months will have persuaded the various bits of the Co-op to submerge their egos and join together for support. But whether they do it themselves, or a more respectable attacker does it for them, the Co-op is going to have to undergo drastic streamlining.

Break the spell

ONE can sympathise with Nick Leslau's wish to start from scratch and have an exciting time building a new property company, backed once more by Nigel Wray. But should he combine this new venture with remaining as deputy chairman at Burford? It does not take a great feat of imagination to spot the potential for conflicts of interest. Even property wizards have to realise that they cannot have the best of both worlds.

Williams to dispose of US division

By JASON NISSE

WILLIAMS, the fire and security group, is expected to sell Nu-Tone, its US business which makes door chimes and intercoms, and will review whether it will sell its home improvements side in the next couple of months.

The Nu-Tone business has sales of more than \$200 million (£125 million) and is expected to command at least that much. The home improvements business — which made £46.8 million in the first half of this year — would have a price tag of at least £1 billion. "The business is valuable to us but may be more valuable to someone else," Sir Nigel Rudd, the chairman, said yesterday. "But any deal not only has to make sense strategically but also mathematically."

The prospect of a sale of home improvements has been on the agenda since Williams bought Chubb, the security business, for £1.3 billion earlier this year. This completed the refocusing of the group from an industrial conglomerate, masterminded by Sir Nigel

and Roger Carr, who became chief executive four years ago.

If Williams sells the home improvements side, the City expects it to give most of the money back to investors rather than pay off its £800 million debt. Sir Nigel said any decision on cash handouts would depend on tax implications.

The group's first figures with Chubb on board showed a slight increase in pre-tax profits to £118 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings, hit by the timing of acquisitions and disposals, fell 10p but the interim dividend is to be increased to 6.05p (5.8p), payable on October 3.

Sir Nigel said the full-year figures would be hit by a £4.5 million charge for bolstering the pension fund in the light of changes in tax and minimum payments in Gordon Brown's Budget. This extra pension contribution will rise to £9 million next year. City analysts cut their forecasts for full-year profits to £285 million.

Rudd's magic, page 29

Newspaper group's 50% profit rise

By RAYMOND SNOODY

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, the media group based in the Republic of Ireland, announced a 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £39 million in the six months to June, helped by the first full-half inclusion of Wilson & Horton, publishers of the New Zealand Herald.

There was strong growth from publications in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand despite those countries' sluggish economies. Liam Healy, chief executive, attributed the growth against economic trends to hard work and improvements in editorial quality.

But the jewel has been Ireland," said Mr Healy, pointing to record operating profits up 25 per cent because of strong advertising revenue in the buoyant Irish economy and improved circulation income.

Analysts now expect pre-tax profits of about £100 million for the full year.

Newsquest sells Wessex operation

By ERIC REGULY

NEWSQUEST, the regional newspaper group controlled by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the American leveraged buy-out specialist, yesterday sold its Wessex newspapers subsidiary to Bristol United Press for £35 million. The City believes the move was an effort to "tidy up" Newsquest's portfolio before its expected flotation.

Wessex owns the Bath Chronicle, six weeklies, including the Somerset Guardian, and four weekly free sheets. In the half year to June 30, the titles had operating profits of £1 million on turnover of £4.3 million.

Jim Brown, chairman of Newsquest, said: "Our ambitions are still to buy newspapers rather than sell. But we appreciated that, in this particular marketplace, Bristol were in a stronger position to develop the Wessex business."

Newsquest has never denied its intention to float but would not comment on its plans.

Boots Health in cash deal for German firm

THE BOOTS Company has accelerated the expansion of its Boots Healthcare International business by buying Hermal Kurt Herman, the leading German skincare manufacturer, from the Merck pharmaceuticals group (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Boots is paying £175 million cash for the business, which makes dermatological products, including Unguentum, Balneum and Curatoderm.

David Thompson, joint group managing director, said the acquisition fulfils "a long-established strategic objective

to achieve a presence for BH1 in Germany". Last year, Boots paid £115 million for Lutsia, the French skincare company.

Mr Thompson said that the acquisition will be earnings neutral. Hermal's sales last year were £52 million. The purchase includes a factory near Hamburg. About 450 staff will transfer to Boots, including 400 Hermal employees in Germany and UK, Austrian and Swiss sales staff.

BH1 makes all of Boots over-the-counter healthcare products, including Nurofen, Stepsils and E45 skin lotions.

Norwich Union plc Interim Statement

The following interim statement for the six months ended immediately before flotation reflect our trading

performance over the period. The figures have been restated on the same basis as in the recent full year accounts, and are consistent with the figures disclosed in the first part of 1997, whilst we have also been in the process of preparing our financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1998.

The figures are unaudited and are subject to audit. The figures are restated on the same basis as in the recent full year accounts, and are consistent with the figures disclosed in the first part of 1997, whilst we have also been in the process of preparing our financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1998.

Allan Bridgewater, Group Chief Executive

	Unaudited 24 weeks to 15.6.97 £m	Prospectus 52 weeks to 31.12.96 £m
Gross premium income		
Long term business	1,100	1,100
General business	1,100	1,100
Total gross premiums	2,200	2,200
Operating earnings		
Balance transferred from long term business technical account	1,100	1,100
Balance transferred from general business technical account	1,100	1,100
Investment income after expenses	1,100	1,100
Investment return allocated to the general business technical account	1,100	1,100
Other	1,100	1,100
Operating earnings before taxation	4,400	4,400
Realised investment gains / (losses)	1,100	1,100
Unrealised investment gains / (losses)	1,100	1,100
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	6,600	6,600
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(1,100)	(1,100)
Minority interests	1,100	1,100
Profit attributable to shareholders	6,600	6,600
Earnings per share		
Earnings per ordinary share	1,100	1,100
Operating earnings per ordinary share	1,100	1,100

Note: 1996 operating earnings before taxation would have been £6,600m after adding back the effect of the investment return allocated to the general business technical account. This would have been £1,100m less than the £7,700m disclosed in the first part of 1997, whilst we have also been in the process of preparing our financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1998.

As indicated in the prospectus, the figures are restated on the same basis as in the recent full year accounts, and are consistent with the figures disclosed in the first part of 1997, whilst we have also been in the process of preparing our financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1998.



NORWICH
UNION

- UK life & pensions — technical account profit of £213m and voted Company of the Year by IFAs (Money Marketing survey — March).
- UK general insurance — technical account profit of £37m in a difficult market reflects continuing emphasis on profit rather than volume.
- International businesses — technical account profit of £41m with improved long term business results in Australia, France and Ireland and profitable general insurance results in New Zealand, Spain and Ireland.
- Funds under management up to £46.7bn (end 1996: £40.2bn).
- Life embedded value £3.9bn (end 1996: £3.6bn) and shareholders' net assets £4.9bn (end 1996: £4.5bn).

This advertisement contains only a summary of the Interim Statement. To receive a copy of the full Statement, please complete and return the coupon.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Quiet day's trading as FTSE line-up changes

IT WAS all change again yesterday on the stock market as five companies suffered the drop from the top flight, while five others celebrated their promotion.

Newcomers Norwich Union, down 7½p at 341p, and Woolwich, 1p firmer at 318½p, along with the mining group Billiton, 2p dearer at 247½p, were guaranteed a slot in the FTSE 100 index after their stock market debuts because of their sheer size. The Woolwich is capitalised at £5.5 billion, Norwich at £6.8 billion and Billiton at £5.2 billion.

Also promoted is Williams down 15½p at 359p after some disappointing profits news - which recently bought Chubb, as well as Sun Life & Provincial, up 8½p at 420p. The latter has just seen its price tag grow to £3.3 billion after issuing 275 million extra shares to finance the acquisition of Axa Equity & Law.

Those to make the drop into the FTSE 250 are Barmah Castrol, down 1p at £10.92, Mercury Asset Management, down 2½p at £12.28, Tate & Lyle, 2p off at 404½p, Hanson, 2½p lighter at 309p, and Imperial Tobacco, 1p harder at 395½p.

Eurotunnel, 1p easier at 68p, loses its place among the second-liners along with Low & Bonar, unchanged at 271p, Vitec Group, 1½p better at 610p, Psion, 1p off at 419½p, Chiroscience, 6½p down at 281p, Vendôme, 5½p up at 472p, and Eurotherm, 3½p lower at 367½p.

An opening fall on Wall Street sent investors scuttling for cover and left prices in London closing at their low point of the day. The FTSE 100 index closed 45.3 down at 4,905.2 in another day of thin trading that saw just 704 million shares change hands.

Brokers are not expecting the Bank of England monetary policy committee to signal another rise in interest rates when it reports today, but investors were reluctant to chance their arm.

British Energy rose 4½p to 314p in its fully paid form with almost 35 million shares changing hands amid speculation that it will be talking to brokers later today. The final call of 98p is due to be paid by next Monday.

There was early support for Reuters on the back of US buying before the shares settled back to finish 3p lighter at 664p. Positive comments from



Jack Wilson and Stathis Papoutas saw London Forfeiting fall

Société Générale Strauss Turbun, the broker, left BICC 1p firmer at 160½p, after briefly touching 163½p. City speculators remain active in EMI where the price touched 697½p in early trading before settling just 1p firmer at 577½p.

BZW gave Tesco a boost with the price adding 7p at 437p after some encouraging comments. It expects sales to grow from £14 billion to £20 billion within the next five years as the benefits of format changes to its hypermarkets begin to filter through.

There was further misery for shareholders of Bio-Comp, with the shares plunging a further 182½p to 550p. On Tuesday, the group's US partner, Johnson & Johnson, refused to license its surgical equipment coating

product. It stretches the loss of the past two days to 592½p, reducing its stock market price tag from £835.7 million to £400 million.

First the good news for shareholders of Tring International. The company has received a bid approach. The bid news is that any resulting offer will not be at a significant premium to the current price of 11p, down 1p. At these levels the price is valued at less than £5 million.

Brokers was a firm market ahead of interim figures today with the price up 12p to 317p. These are expected to show a drop in pre-tax profits from £24 million to £22 million.

After Tuesday's strong profit numbers Croda International added a further 11p to 369p. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has issued a strong "buy" note on the shares.

Fitch was a ¼p better at 47p after Sir Terence Conran took up an option on 2.5 million shares at 10p a share. The options were granted in partial repayment of a loan and takes Sir Terence's total holding in the architectural and graphic design specialist to 25.79 per cent.

The market was clearly not impressed with half-year figures from London Forfeiting, down 40p at 404½p, despite a near-30 per cent rise in profits. The group, where Jack Wilson is chairman and Stathis Papoutas chief executive, is worried about the effect on profit of the turbulence in South-East Asia.

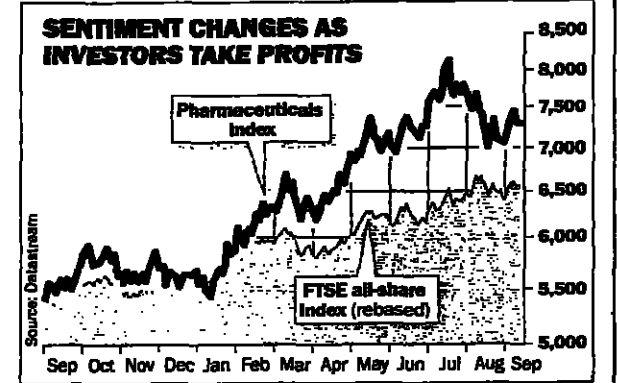
GILT-EDGED: The absence of any fresh news on the economic front saw bond prices trade in narrow limits for much of the day before closing barely changed.

There was scepticism on the part of most traders about the Bank of England monetary policy committee raising rates after yesterday's meeting.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt closed unchanged at £141½, after briefly touching £115½, with just 34,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on a tick at £10½½, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost a tick at £102½½.

NEW YORK: Blue chips were back to the day's lows at midday. Traders blamed a lack of good news and the Dow Jones industrial average was down 59 points at 7,792.91.



There was a further sell-off among the big drug companies. Glaxo Wellcome dropped 36p to £12.49, SmithKline Beecham 19p to £30p, and Zeneca 19p to £10.09. A change of sentiment is sweeping the market with investors happy to take profits after reviewing long-term growth prospects.

Kevin Scotcher at Nat-West Securities, the broker, said: "Back in March investors were happy about the long-term picture and were ready to pay a higher price for that growth. Now they

have gone the other way. They are no longer buying growth stocks."

Pharmaceuticals were weak throughout August. Investors were worried about the cost structure of the industry with regard to developing and marketing.

Mr Scotcher said the profits warning from Pfizer in July triggered a downgrade of US drug stocks. Investors are happy to take profits in those sectors where they were first earned.

"Investor sentiment towards equities has changed," adds Mr Scotcher.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7792.91 (-59.00)
S&P Composite 927.29 (-6.33)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16704.77 (+6.80)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14805.41 (+1.22)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 877.56 (+17.61)

Sydney:
AO 2666.15 (+4.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4050.14 (+4.25)

Singapore:
Straits 1944.63 (+24.75)

Brussels:
General 13470.35 (-206.31)

Paris:
CAC-40 2674.57 (+5.15)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1139.40 (+21.30)

London:
FTSE 100 4905.2 (-45.3)
FTSE 250 4664.7 (-12.3)
FTSE 350 2368.1 (-18.8)
FTSE Europe 100 3601.6 (-17.1)
FTSE All-Share 2316.0 (-17.1)
FTSE Non Financials 2316.0 (-17.1)
FTSE Fixed Interest 125.90 (+0.41)
FTSE Govt Sec 97.24 (+0.01)
Barratals 36273
SEA Volume 704,000
US\$ 1,588.0 (+0.09)
German Mark 2.886 (-0.0210)
Exchange Index 99.9 (-0.3)
Bank of England official base 44pm
Cable 14531
RPI 158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
NPIX 157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta CV Uts	397½	...
Bristol & West Trf	109½	...
Camwell Ltd	136½	...
EMI B	115	...
GR Holdings	52½	...
Galen Holdings	204½	+ 16
Hellon Pubstg	92½	...
IS Solutions	135½	...
Kingfisher Leisure	176½	...
Reckitt Benelux	108	...
SBS Group	110½	...
Severn Trent B	37½	...
Stentor Warrants	46½	...
Style Holdings	85	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	63	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dixon Mtrs n/p (235)	36	...
Langdon Foods n/p (1)	4	...
Misys US Conv n/p (12)	+ 10	...
SEET n/p (30)	15	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Celt Telecom	485p (-33p)	...
Cohen (A)	335p (+20p)	...
Shield (A)	642p (+35p)	...
Paion	419p (+17p)	...
Pressac	253p (+10p)	...
Booker	317p (+12p)	...
Calsonic	385p (+11p)	...
Carlson Comm	495p (+13p)	...
Charter	820p (+16p)	...
FALLS:		
Dragon Oil	82p (-11p)	...
Vanguard	385p (-17p)	...
Assoc Br Ports	275p (-17p)	...
Photobank	665p (-30p)	...
Boosey Hwks	950p (-85p)	...
Charles Int	284p (-12p)	...
Williams	395p (-15p)	...
Synthetic	530p (-16p)	...
Cable Wireless	535p (-14p)	...
Johnson Math	647p (-16p)	...
Calm Energy	528p (-12p)	...
Broken Hill	775p (-17p)	...
Hutch Whamp	592p (-13p)	...

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Need to dredge ports

MORE depressing than the weak interim profits growth at Associated British Ports was the board's utterly predictable response to its critics. A bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Andrew Smith, the new ports supremo, was pushed on to the platform to announce a strategy review that will be full of good things as well as management consultants. So many years after privatisation, ABP is finally asking its customers what they want from the ports and offering them the opportunity to voice the occasional criticism.

BAA went through this sort of turmoil several years ago, when it finally dawned on the management that it was not enough just to sit back and collect tolls and rents. Unlike BAA, the ports operator does have competitors, but the colossal franchise that is Southampton is very comforting and ABP has never fully

decided whether it is an operating business or a property play. As late as the beginning of this year, ABP was pumping money into some extraneous property investments, with some £12 million spent building up the non-port portfolio. This will slowly be liquidated, but there are oddities about the company's treatment of its assets. Each year the ports are revalued and the inevitable surplus swells the company's massive balance sheet. This is a distraction; the reason that investors buy ABP shares is not to see a vacant lot in Southampton show a theoretical increase in value. What investors want is to see cash pouring out of the company as it sweats its massive dowry of port assets. Instead, gearing was a mere 40 per cent at the half year and net cashflow was negative. Without dredging more cash from these ports ABP should be avoided.

Caradon

CARADON managed to terrify the City yesterday by boasting that it had the resources to spend up to £300 million on acquisitions. Fears of a spending spree were enough to overshadow the return of £150 million of capital to shareholders. Caradon shares duly fell 9p to 189½p accompanied by profits downgrades for the next year-and-a-half.

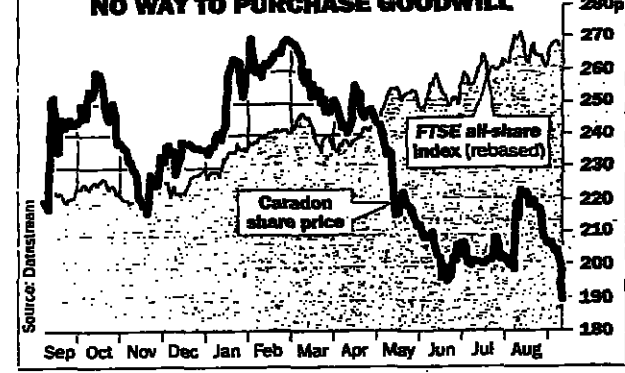
If Caradon is trying to buy itself out of a weak position, its strategy will be seen as one step forward and two steps back. After many disposals, Caradon's gearing is now some 15 per cent, although some argue the real rate is higher because convertible preference shares form a considerable part of shareholders' funds. Some small purchases in Europe in plumbing or electricals

would be acceptable. Is there an adequate strategy for anything more?

Caradon is good at cutting costs, lopping off £18 million in the first half of 1997, well on course for the year's £25-£40 million target. But the suspicion is that it is not addressing the fundamental erosion of its markets.

Yesterday's interims were

dragged down by losses in the US aluminium window operation. Rising material prices were a factor, but not as big as the US public's preference for plastic. Meanwhile sales fell in all other divisions. Adapt cost cutting helped to enable slight divisional profit rises. Where Caradon goes from here is still far from clear.



Courtaulds Text.

FOR ONCE, Courtaulds Textiles managed to avoid nasty surprises. For the past three years, the textile sector has seen profits eroded by competition as customers, the clothing retailers, did battle on price.

Broad targets set by the company's new management, which took over a year ago, have been met, although there are areas, such as the Well hosiery business in France, that need further attention.

If the Courtaulds Textiles profits are on the mend, credit must go to its relationship with Marks & Spencer, which now accounts for a huge 37 per cent of its turnover. In most sectors, such a heavy dependency on one customer would be foolhardy. In the case of textiles, it is the opposite. Marks & Spencer is unusually loyal to its suppliers, is seeing rapid sales growth and a rising market share. Courtaulds

Textiles is also sensibly building up its business with Victoria's Secret, the dominant US lingerie retailer.

An unusually warm autumn could yet slow down recovery, but the company is otherwise set fair. Despite a strong rise in its share price from the low point at the beginning of this year, it is still, at a 25 per cent discount to the market, worth a punt.

CIA

CIA GROUP is a small player in the advertising industry's hottest sector. Media buying is rising in importance as the number of media outlets multiplies, presenting advertisers with an intimidating array of choice. CIA and Aegis, its larger competitor, are considered experts in their field because media buying is their sole business.

CIA has won an impressive number of big-name clients in the past year, but the expanded roster has had little effect on the share price. It

company's network still has large holes in it as a result margins have been below industry standards.

The scenario changed overnight in June, when WPP, the owner of the J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather advertising agencies, bought a 12.7 per cent stake in CIA from the disgruntled director who runs its Italian operations. WPP is no shrinking violet and is expected to seek control. But CIA is jealously guarding its independence. With 40 per cent of the company in the hands of directors and employees, there is no guarantee that a hostile bid will succeed.

CIA should not alienate WPP. Given its size, WPP can feed a lot of business to CIA, and WPP's own media buying arms can provide it with the geographic reach it so badly needs. A deal that falls short of a full takeover may be the ideal solution for both sides and CIA investors.

EDITED BY MARK MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFTS

Cocoa	1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jan	1213-1212	...
1112-1100	Mar	1213-1212	...
1112-1100	May	1213-1212	...
1112-1100	Jul	1213-1212	...
1112-1100	Sep	1213-1212	...
1112-1100	Nov	1213-1212	...
1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212	...

ROBUSTA COFFEE

1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jan	1213-1212
1112-1100	Mar	1213-1212
1112-1100	May	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jul	1213-1212
1112-1100	Sep	1213-1212
1112-1100	Nov	1213-1212
1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212

WHITE SUGAR

1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jan	1213-1212
1112-1100	Mar	1213-1212
1112-1100	May	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jul	1213-1212
1112-1100	Sep	1213-1212
1112-1100	Nov	1213-1212
1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jan	1213-1212
1112-1100	Mar	1213-1212
1112-1100	May	1213-1212
1112-1100	Jul	1213-1212
1112-1100	Sep	1213-1212
1112-1100	Nov	1213-1212
1112-1100	Dec	1213-1212

COMMODITIES

ICE-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)		
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.30	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Nov)	18.40	+0.00
WTI 15 day (Oct)	18.40	+0.00
WTI 15 day (Nov)	18.40	+0.00
WTI Intermediate (Nov)	18.40	+0.00
WTI Intermediate (Dec)	18.40	+0.00

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

GAS OIL		LIFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd \$10/pd)	
Sep	161.25-61.50	Dec .	166.75-67.00
Oct	161.75-62.00	Jan ..	167.50-68.75
Nov	162.25-62.50	Feb ..	168.25-69.50
Dec	162.75-63.00	Mar ..	169.00-70.25
Jan	163.25-63.50	Apr ..	169.75-71.00
Feb	163.75-64.00	May ..	170.50-71.75
Mar	164.25-64.50	Jun ..	171.25-72.50
Apr	164.75-65.00	Jul ..	172.00-73.25
May	165.25-65.50	Aug ..	172.75-74.00
Jun	165.75-66.00	Sep ..	173.50-74.75
Jul	166.25-66.50	Oct ..	174.25-75.50
Aug	166.75-67.00	Nov ..	175.00-76.25
Sep	167.25-67.50	Dec ..	175.75-77.00
Oct	167.75-68.00	Jan ..	176.50-77.75
Nov	168.25-68.50	Feb ..	177.25-78.50
Dec	168.75-69.00	Mar ..	178.00-79.25
Jan	169.25-69.50	Apr ..	178.75-80.00
Feb	169.75-70.00	May ..	179.50-80.75
Mar	170.25-70.50	Jun ..	180.25-81.50
Apr	170.75-71.00	Jul ..	181.00-82.25
May	171.25-71.50	Aug ..	181.75-83.00
Jun	171.75-72.00	Sep ..	182.50-83.75
Jul	172.25-72.50	Oct ..	183.25-84.50
Aug	172.75-73.00	Nov ..	184.00-85.25
Sep	173.25-73.50	Dec ..	184.75-86.00
Oct	173.75-74.00	Jan ..	185.50-86.75
Nov	174.25-74.50	Feb ..	186.25-87.50
Dec	174.75-75.00	Mar ..	187.00-88.25
Jan	175.25-75.50	Apr ..	187.75-89.00
Feb	175.75-76.00	May ..	188.50-89.75
Mar	176.25-76.50	Jun ..	189.25-90.50
Apr	176.75-77.00	Jul ..	190.00-91.25
May	177.25-77.50	Aug ..	190.75-92.00
Jun	177.75-78.00	Sep ..	191.50-92.75
Jul	178.25-78.50	Oct ..	192.25-93.50
Aug	178.75-79.00	Nov ..	193.00-94.25
Sep	179.25-79.50	Dec ..	193.75-95.00
Oct	179.75-80.00	Jan ..	194.50-95.75
Nov	180.25-80.50	Feb ..	195.25-96.50
Dec	180.75-81.00	Mar ..	196.00-97.25
Jan	181.25-81.50	Apr ..	196.75-98.00
Feb	181.75-82.00	May ..	197.50-98.75
Mar	182.25-82.50	Jun ..	198.25-99.50
Apr	182.75-83.00	Jul ..	199.00-100.25
May	183.25-83.50	Aug ..	199.75-101.00
Jun	183.75-84.00	Sep ..	200.50-101.75
Jul	184.25-84.50	Oct ..	201.25-102.50
Aug	184.75-85.00	Nov ..	202.00-103.25
Sep	185.25-85.50	Dec ..	202.75-104.00
Oct	185.75-86.00	Jan ..	203.50-104.75
Nov	186.25-86.50	Feb ..	204.25-105.50
Dec	186.75-87.00	Mar ..	205.00-106.25
Jan	187.25-87.50	Apr ..	205.75-107.00
Feb	187.75-88.00	May ..	206.50-107.75
Mar	188.25-88.50	Jun ..	207.25-108.50
Apr	188.75-89.00	Jul ..	208.00-109.25
May	189.25-89.50	Aug ..	208.75-110.00
Jun	189.75-90.00	Sep ..	209.50-110.75
Jul	190.25-90.50	Oct ..	210.25-111.50
Aug	190.75-91.00	Nov ..	211.00-112.25
Sep	191.25-91.50	Dec ..	211.75-113.00
Oct	191.75-92.00	Jan ..	212.50-113.75
Nov	192.25-92.50	Feb ..	213.25-114.50
Dec	192.75-93.00	Mar ..	214.00-115.25
Jan	193.25-93.50	Apr ..	214.75-116.00
Feb	193.75-94.00	May ..	215.50-116.75
Mar	194.25-94.50	Jun ..	216.25-117.50
Apr	194.75-95.00	Jul ..	217.00-118.25
May	195.25-95.50	Aug ..	217.75-119.00
Jun	195.75-96.00	Sep ..	218.50-119.75
Jul	196.25-96.50	Oct ..	219.25-120.50
Aug	196.75-97.00	Nov ..	220.00-121.25
Sep	197.25-97.50	Dec ..	220.75-122.00
Oct	197.75-98.00	Jan ..	221.50-122.75
Nov	198.25-98.50	Feb ..	222.25-123.50
Dec	198.75-99.00	Mar ..	223.00-124.25
Jan	199.25-99.50	Apr ..	223.75-125.00
Feb	199.75-100.00	May ..	224.50-125.75
Mar	200.25-100.50	Jun ..	225.25-126.50
Apr	200.75-101.00	Jul ..	226.00-127.25
May	201.25-101.50	Aug ..	226.75-128.00
Jun	201.75-102.00	Sep ..	227.50-128.75
Jul	202.25-102.50	Oct ..	228.25-129.50
Aug	202.75-103.00	Nov ..	229.00-130.25
Sep	203.25-103.50	Dec ..	229.75-131.00
Oct	203.75-104.00	Jan ..	230.50-131.75
Nov	204.25-104.50	Feb ..	231.25-132.50
Dec	204.75-105.00	Mar ..	232.00-133.25
Jan	205.25-105.50	Apr ..	232.75-134.00
Feb	205.75-106.00	May ..	233.50-134.75
Mar	206.25-106.50	Jun ..	234.25-135.50
Apr	206.75-107.00	Jul ..	235.00-136.25
May	207.25-107.50	Aug ..	235.75-137.00
Jun	207.75-108.00	Sep ..	236.50-137.75
Jul	208.25-108.50	Oct ..	237.25-138.50
Aug	208.75-109.00	Nov ..	238.00-139.25
Sep	209.25-109.50	Dec ..	238.75-140.00
Oct	209.75-110.00	Jan ..	239.50-140.75
Nov	210.25-110.50	Feb ..	240.25-141.50
Dec	210.75-111.00	Mar ..	241.00-142.25
Jan	211.25-111.50	Apr ..	241.75-143.00
Feb	211.75-112.00	May ..	242.50-143.75
Mar	212.25-112.50	Jun ..	243.25-144.50
Apr	212.75-113.00	Jul ..	244.00-145.25
May	213.25-113.50	Aug ..	244.75-146.00
Jun	213.75-114.00	Sep ..	245.50-146.75
Jul	214.25-114.50	Oct ..	246.25-147.50
Aug	214.75-115.00	Nov ..	247.00-148.25
Sep	215.25-115.50	Dec ..	247.75-149.00
Oct	215.75-116.00	Jan ..	248.50-149.75
Nov	216.25-116.50	Feb ..	249.25-150.50
Dec	216.75-117.00	Mar ..	250.00-151.25
Jan	217.25-117.50	Apr ..	250.75-152.00
Feb	217.75-118.00	May ..	251.50-152.75
Mar	218.25-118.50	Jun ..	252.25-153.50
Apr	218.75-119.00	Jul ..	253.00-154.25
May	219.25-119.50	Aug ..	253.75-155.00
Jun	219.75-120.00	Sep ..	254.50-155.75
Jul	220.25-120.50	Oct ..	255.25-156.50
Aug	220.75-121.00	Nov ..	256.00-157.25
Sep	221.25-121.50	Dec ..	256.75-158.00
Oct	221.75-122.00	Jan ..	257.50-158.75
Nov	222.25-122.50	Feb ..	258.25-159.50
Dec	222.75-123.00	Mar ..	259.00-160.25
Jan	223.25-123.50	Apr ..	259.75-161.00
Feb	223.75-124.00	May ..	260.50-161.75
Mar	224.25-124.50	Jun ..	261.25-162.50
Apr	224.75-125.00	Jul ..	262.00-163.25
May	225.25-125.50	Aug ..	262.75-164.00
Jun	225.75-126.00	Sep ..	263.50-164.75
Jul	226.25-126.50	Oct ..	264.25-165.50
Aug	226.75-127.00	Nov ..	265.00-166.25
Sep	227.25-127.50	Dec ..	265.75-167.00
Oct	227.75-128.00	Jan ..	266.50-167.75
Nov	228.25-128.50	Feb ..	267.25-168.50
Dec	228.75-129.00	Mar ..	268.00-169.25
Jan	229.25-129.50	Apr ..	268.75-170.00
Feb	229.75-130.00	May ..	269.50-170.75
Mar	230.25-130.50	Jun ..	270.25-171.50
Apr	230.75-131.00	Jul ..	271.00-172.25
May	231.25-131.50	Aug ..	271.75-173.00
Jun	231.75-132.00	Sep ..	272.50-173.75
Jul	232.25-132.50	Oct ..	273.25-174.50
Aug	232.75-133.00	Nov ..	274.00-175.25
Sep	233.25-133.50	Dec ..	274.75-176.00
Oct	233.75-134.00	Jan ..	275.50-176.75
Nov	234.25-134.50	Feb ..	276.25-177.50
Dec	234.75-135.00	Mar ..	277.00-178.25
Jan	235.25-135.50	Apr ..	277.75-179.00
Feb	235.75-136.00	May ..	278.50-179.75
Mar	236.25-136.50	Jun ..	279.25-180.50
Apr	236.75-137.00	Jul ..	280.00-181.25
May	237.25-137.50	Aug ..	280.75-182.00
Jun	237.75-138.00	Sep ..	281.50-182.75
Jul	238.25-138.50	Oct ..	282.25-183.50
Aug	238.75-139.00	Nov ..	283.00-184.25
Sep	239.25-139.50	Dec ..	283.75-185.00
Oct	239.75-140.00	Jan ..	284.50-185.75
Nov	240.25-140.50	Feb ..	285.25-186.50
Dec	240.75-141.00	Mar ..	286.00-187.25
Jan	241.25-141.50	Apr ..	286.75-188.00
Feb	241.75-142.00	May ..	287.50-188.75
Mar	242.25-142.50	Jun ..	288.25-189.50
Apr	242.75-143.00	Jul ..	289.00-190.25
May	243.25-143.50	Aug ..	289.75-191.00
Jun	243.75-144.00	Sep ..	290.50-191.75
Jul	244.25-144.50	Oct ..	291.25-192.50
Aug	244.75-145.00	Nov ..	292.00-193.25
Sep	245.25-145.50	Dec ..	292.75-194.00
Oct	245.75-146.00	Jan ..	293.50-194.75
Nov	246.25-146.50	Feb ..	294.25-195.50
Dec	246.75-147.00	Mar ..	295.00-196.25
Jan	247.25-147.50	Apr ..	295.75-197.00
Feb	247.75-148.00	May ..	296.50-197.75
Mar	248.25-148.50	Jun ..	297.25-198.50
Apr	248.75-149.00	Jul ..	298.00-199.25
May	249.25-149.50	Aug ..	298.75-200.00
Jun	249.75-150.00	Sep ..	299.50-200.75
Jul	250.25-150.50	Oct ..	300.25-201.50
Aug	250.75-151.00	Nov ..	301.00-202.25
Sep	251.25-151.50	Dec ..	301.75-203.00
Oct	251.75-152.00	Jan ..	302.50-203.75
Nov	252.25-152.50	Feb ..	303.25-204.50
Dec	252.75-153.00	Mar ..	304.00-205.25
Jan	253.25-153.50	Apr ..	304.75-206.00
Feb	253.75-154.00	May ..	305.50-206.75
Mar	254.25-154.50	Jun ..	306.25-207.50
Apr	254.75-155.00	Jul ..	307.00-208.25
May	255.25-155.50	Aug ..	307.75-209.00
Jun	255.75-156.00	Sep ..	308.50-209.75
Jul	256.25-156.50	Oct ..	309.25-210.50
Aug	256.75-157.00	Nov ..	310.00-211.25
Sep	257.25-157.50	Dec ..	310.75-212.00
Oct	257.75-158.00	Jan ..	311.50-212.75
Nov	258.25-158.50	Feb ..	312.25-213.50
Dec	258.75-159.00	Mar ..	313.00-214.25
Jan	259.25-159.50	Apr ..	313.75-215.00
Feb	259.75-160.00	May ..	314.50-215.75
Mar	260.25-160.50	Jun ..	315.25-216.50
Apr	260.75-161.00	Jul ..	316.00-217.25
May	261.25-161.50	Aug ..	316.75-218.00
Jun	261.75-162.00	Sep ..	317.50-218.75
Jul	262.25-162.50	Oct ..	318.25-219.50
Aug	262.75-163.00	Nov ..	319.00-220.25
Sep	263.25-163.50	Dec ..	319.75-221.00
Oct	263.75-164.00	Jan ..	320.50-221.75
Nov	264.25-164.50	Feb ..	321.25-222.50
Dec	264.75-165.00	Mar ..	322.00-223.25
Jan	265.25-165.50	Apr ..	322.75-224.00
Feb	265.75-166.00	May ..	323.50-224.75
Mar	266.25-166.50	Jun ..	324.25-225.50
Apr	266.75-167.00	Jul ..	325.00-226.25
May	267.25-167.50	Aug ..	325.75-227.00
Jun	267.75-168.00	Sep ..	326.50-227.75
Jul	268.25-168.50	Oct ..	327.25-228.50
Aug	268.75-169.00	Nov ..	328.00-229.25
Sep	269.25-169.50	Dec ..	328.75-230.00
Oct	269.75-170.00	Jan ..	329.50-230.75
Nov	270.25-170.50	Feb ..	330.25-231.50
Dec	270.75-171.00	Mar ..	331.00-232.25
Jan	271.25-171.50	Apr ..	331.75-233.00
Feb	271.75-172.00	May ..	332.50-233.75
Mar	272.25-172.50	Jun ..	333.25-234.50
Apr	272.75-173.00	Jul ..	334.00-235.25
May	273.25-173.50	Aug ..	334.75-236.00
Jun	273.75-174.00	Sep ..	335.50-236.75
Jul	274.25-174.50	Oct ..	336.25-237.50
Aug	274.75-175.00	Nov ..	337.00-238.25
Sep	275.25-175.50	Dec ..	337.75-239.00
Oct	275.75-176.00	Jan ..	338.50-239.75
Nov	276.25-176.50	Feb ..	339.25-2

The writing is on the railings



GRAHAM SMITH

Court insiders call the Royal Family "The Firm". If the rest of us had coined that nickname, it would be disrespectful, evoking the hard arithmetic of products, costs and marketing and thereby demeaning ourselves. But it is a useful analogy for the dilemma facing our monarchy.

A private family firm, if it can survive down the generations, has to have great strength. But there is an awful inclination to rely on the product that made the family famous, to be fearful of change, to accommodate the daffier family members and to hold back entrepreneurial rebels who preach reform. Boardroom wrangles between siblings and cousins, portrayed in many a television mini-series, are only too true to life.

The Cadbury family, among a select few, has just about managed to stay the nectic course. A paternalistic family fief has gradually evolved into a modern multinational. Sometimes, a once-prominent company shrinks into a sustainable but modest niche player, such as NM Rothschild. Most

often, crisis eventually forces welcome change.

A bank manager is usually the agent. The more fortunate face conflicts between members of the family with different ideas. These conflicts are often resolved by outsiders: a non-family professional manager or a consultant summoned to arbitrate.

For the Royal Family, the sensationally unexpected death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is destined to play this role. Anyone who reads a selection of the thousands of personal messages put round London's royal places will know that, while a modest majority poured out grief at the death of a family member, or of a star who filled the vacant role of family, a large minority expressed that combination of sorrow and anger that burns when we feel our loyalty has been spurned. This public were loyal but dissatisfied customers.

For our most important firm, the writing was on the railings.

Your don't have to be a private firm to see the implications. British Gas threw away public approval when it needed it and never learnt the need to apologise. It no longer exists. Sensitivity to the concerns of customers is crucial to managing any high-profile corporation.

The current royal "product" was developed 60 years ago, in response to the last shock. Edward VIII wandered naively into political debate, in a manner easily manipulated into fascism, undermining the monarchy's basic function as democratic long-stop. He was also determined to marry a divorcee, which threatened to divide Church and State.

The ensuing formula of ordinariness and respectability, embodying a passive focus of loyalty in fraught times and an active but uncontroversial role dignifying

local, national and international affairs, worked well for 40 years. Just as defence policies are questioned by the end of the Cold War, however, so the passive function of "The Firm" is lessened by the triumph of democracy in Western Europe and, however temporarily, by having a popular government at home. Four royal divorces in quick succession finally

buried the existing offering. In adapting for a less formal future, the family firm should first mind reality. If Toyota competes with Mercedes, the possibilities are as great as the risks. If Rolls-Royce tries to compete with Ford, or vice versa, disaster can confidently be predicted. A unique person cannot by definition be replicated. The monarchy still needs some dignity over and above those who embody it, so any deliberate attempt to run a soap opera Royal Family that people identify with is also doomed to fail.

New roles are needed. Demos, the now-influential think-tank, suggests that members of the Royal Family should go round the world more representing Britain and apologising for its imperial past. That sounds a useful if thankless task. If the Royal Family wishes to have a true world role, not least as sovereign of the old

Dominions, head of the Commonwealth, dependent territories and possibly of a separate Scotland, it would also need a structure that does not rely so much on the British prime minister and to have a much more regular presence on the ground.

Simple managerial changes are needed. People complain that the Royal Family does not turn up fast enough to national disasters and emergencies. As in the board of any well-managed group, diaries should be arranged so that at least one senior member is on call for the unexpected.

The royal equivalent of a board of directors would surely help, with separate roles of chairman, chief executive, and a close-knit group of fully executive members of the Royal Family who meet and brief each other, ideally weekly. The Queen is still mother confessor to the Prime Minister, but the

old idea of an non-executive board relying on a professional general manager has long been ditched by good businesses.

If the product needs to change, so does the income base. Taxpayers may get a terrific deal out of the civil list system but it is open to constant mischief, not least from newspapers that are born of 1980s values and pandering to an inferiority complex by making readers feel better by showing that everyone else is awful too.

The Firm has a lot of high-profile real estate that may never earn much more than its upkeep. But this is insignificant against its "intellectual property", which includes the copyright of royal images and the potential for licensing royal warrants. Singing up with Mark McCormack might seem tacky, but not if it produced a surplus that allowed big donations to good causes and enabled the next monarch to turn the Crown Estate into a charitable foundation.

Change, as CBI folk say with grunted smiles, can be creative.

'King of the fat cats' poised to sit with Labour in the House of Lords

Chris Ayres and Jason Nisse report on why top pay is still an issue

Sir Desmond Pither, chairman of United Utilities, is the current holder of the title "King of the fat cats". He was awarded the title by Ian McCartney — then a Labour spokesman, now a Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry — after the row over United Utilities' long-term incentive plan last year.

But if the award was being handed out today, it might be difficult for Mr McCartney to pass judgment since the most likely winner would be George Simpson, who is about to take his seat in the House of Lords as a Labour peer.

The GEC managing director managed to anger institutional investors for the second year running at Friday's annual meeting. Last year the dispute involved the terms of his own contract of employment, this year a management share incentive plan. At a time when the debate on executive pay was starting to go quiet, GEC has managed to stir it up again.

The image of Britain's captains of industry as fat cats who award themselves wildly inflated pay rises refuses to go away. Many companies have blamed the image on envy, and produced a string of international comparisons to justify their pay scales. But evidence emerges today to prove that their pay packets enjoy little relation to the real world.

A survey published by Incomes Data Services, the research company, reveals that the average pay packet of Britain's top 100 chief executives is more than 40 times the average salary and is increasing at more than three times the rate of inflation.

In the year to May the pay of these top executives jumped 11.5 per cent, with the average standing at £776,000, including



George Simpson managed to anger GEC's institutional investors for the second year running at Friday's AGM

a basic salary of £439,000 plus benefits, bonuses and long-term incentives.

Historic figures show that such a hefty pay rise is nothing new. Last year executives' pay rose 12.6 per cent over 1995, the year before it rose 9.1 per cent, and before that it leapt 22.2 per cent. Out in the real world the average salary of full-time employees was about £18,000, only a 2 per cent rise from the previous year.

Teachers, who earn an average of about £23,000, were awarded a rise in basic salary of only 3.7 per cent. Engineers, who earn an average of about £20,000, gained a 4 per cent increase. The ranks of professionals and middle managers working several levels below their chief executives, typically taking home between £25,000 and £35,000, saw an average pay increase of 3.8 per cent.

Among pay rises for business leaders, the most impressive was awarded to Peter George, chief executive of betting and hotels chain Ladbrokes, who enjoyed a pay rise of 166 per cent — nearly 50 times the rate of inflation — thanks to a hefty £846,000 bonus and pension supplement. Similarly, Hugh

Stevenson, chairman of Mercury Asset Management, impressed sidestepped his company's pay freeze with a 78 per cent rise in total pay, thanks to two bonuses worth about £1.2 million. Yesterday MAM fell out of the FTSE 100 index of leading companies.

But even without the phenomenon of bonus payments,

FTSE 100 chief executives' pay (to May '97)			
	Lowest Paid	Average	Best Paid
Basic salary (£000)	168,000	439,250	2,147,200
Benefits (£000)	5,000	34,004	451,000
Annual bonus (£)	10,000	217,149	1,277,000
Long-term incentive (£)	25,000	559,489	2,289,945
Total remuneration (£000)	228,000	775,761	5,769,200

executive pay rises still out-pace inflation, with six companies pushing basic salaries up more than 20 per cent.

The steepest climb was at Alliance & Leicester, the recently demutualised building society, whose chief executive, Peter White, enjoyed a 35 per cent basic salary rise. Other general rises went to executives at Next, Thames Water and

Railtrack. Yet these chief executives might consider themselves paupers when compared with the highest paid director of all. The honour goes to James Ffield of EMI, the music group, who last year earned a total of £5.8 million, including a basic salary of £2.1 million. His company benefits amounted to £358,000, with an

annual bonus of £1.3 million and a long-term incentive of £2 million. Ffield's fat cat credibility is boosted even further by the fact that his salary bears little relation to the performance of his company. Its shares have dived 170p to 526p over the past 12 months. Britain's other highest paid chief executives include John Browne of BP, who last year

earned a total of £2.5 million, including a basic salary of £425,000, plus other incentive payments of more than £2 million. Jan Leschly, of Smithkline Beecham, also found a place in the top five highest earners, taking home a total of £2.1 million, including a basic salary of £866,000, benefits of £18,000 and an annual bonus of £1.2 million.

How big a package should be given to captains of industry — according to the Greenbury report on corporate governance — is now the responsibility of remuneration committees supposedly made up entirely of non-executive directors. But research by Manifest, the proxy voting agency, shows that more than 100 of the UK's leading companies still have executive directors on their remuneration committee. Among the sinners are Dabco, Royal Bank of Scotland, National Power and Laura Ashley, where the £1 million a year chief executive, Ann Iverson, sits on the committee which determines the executive pay package.

Even when the committee is made up of non-executive directors, evidence is emerging that

that the executives have a larger than anticipated hand in determining their pay and bonus arrangements. Senior remuneration consultants have told *The Times* that they regularly consult the executives who are to receive the bonus payment on the type of package they want to receive.

"Our brief is from non-executives on the remuneration committee, but there is no question that executive directors influence non-executives in all sorts of ways," says Richard Greenhill, partner in the pay and benefits group of actuaries Bacon & Woodrow. "If one is designing an incentive plan for directors, it is important to consult them on what they feel are important measures for them."

Alison Smith, of Monks Partnership, one of the most influential remuneration consultants, agrees. "Directors may not buy into the incentive plan unless you talk to the directors themselves about the performance measures to be used and even the scale of payment."

This raises the prospect that the remuneration committee is not actually setting the levels of pay and bonus, but rubber stamping an arrangement that the executives have set up for themselves working with the company's remuneration consultants.

Despite the increasing vigilance of investors and the deliberations of the Greenbury committee, the fat cats are still getting fatter. And if the policing of fat cat pay appears to be by other felines, the rate of increase is hardly likely to slow.

City looks for fresh proof of Rudd magic

Any conversation with Sir Nigel Rudd usually ends up focusing on shareholder value. The sage of Derby is a strong advocate of the idea that the managements of companies have a duty to deliver outstanding returns to their investors.

But, sadly, in the past few years Sir Nigel has not only failed to deliver shareholder value at Williams, the group that delivered stratospheric returns as he built it up with Brian McGowan in the 1980s, but also at Pilkington, the troubled glassmaker of which he became the first non-family chairman two years ago.

"It's something I am very conscious of and we're trying to do something about it," he recently admitted.

Yesterday Sir Nigel tried to shed the conglomerate tag that Williams has had since it was created from a group with a £5.6 million turnover in 1982. Holdings has been dropped from the name and the group wants to be reclassified as "business support services" rather than "diversified industrials". It is no coincidence that the new sector is one of the best rated in the market.

The adjustment from City darling to having a poor market rating has been as hard for Sir Nigel as it has for other 1980s whiz-kids. Greg Hutchings, of Tomkins. As with Tomkins there came a turning point when the City fell out of love with the company. With Tomkins it was the purchase of Ranks Hovis McDougall. With Williams it was the unsuccessful bid for Rascal in 1991.

The failure of the Rascal bid

led to the departure of McGowan, who said he was retiring to go fishing and probably wishes he had stuck to his word. Having been tempted by Mohamed Al Fayed to be chairman of House of Fraser, he has presided over three years of misery at the troubled department store chain.

Meanwhile, Sir Nigel promoted his long-standing lieutenant, Roger Carr. They started a fundamental shake-up, disposing of peripheral activities such as motor dealerships, electronics and building products. The purchase of Chubb this year completed the transformation into a fire products and security business that also happens to own a rather large home improvements operation, now "under review".

While the transformation was taking place the share price crumbled. "What we have got now is a company which has fundamentally changed over the past five or six years and this has meant a tremendous change in the real value of the business," Sir Nigel says. "Either we were overvalued five years ago or we're undervalued now."

Even his harshest critics say he was right to bring more focus to the business. They are divided on whether he has gone far enough and whether this will deliver the much sought after shareholder value. A firm decision on whether Williams is selling home improvements should help the City to decide whether Sir Nigel still has the magic touch.

JASON NISSE

Tied in Notts

KEN CLARKE's appointment as chairman of UniChem — the share price dropped a few pence, by the way — shows what a forgiving lot they must be. Not one but two of UniChem's big takeovers were made more arduous by the previous Government. The purchase of AAH was bad enough, but the more recent scrap over Lloyds Chemists — UniChem lost out to the German — seemed to go on forever, what with references, MMC inquiries and so on, and ran for at least a year.

Let us hope the good people

of Nottingham, where Clarke's constituency is, are as forgiving. The town is the homeplace of UniChem's biggest competitor, Boots, and plenty of jobs there rely on Boots' continuing dominance. Clarke, who is looking forward to a long career as a backbencher, professes close links with the town and is even pondering a directorship of Notts Forest, the local football club. Quipped one local: "He couldn't hit much. Not surprising: before the recess he was being called to the House of Lords for a vote as often as three times a week."

● I AM told Lord Hollick of United News & Media is having a little difficulty reconciling his duties as a keen new Labour supporter with the need to run a business. Not a man used to taking orders, he is finding the demands of the whips a bit much. Not surprising: before the recess he was being called to the House of Lords for a vote as often as three times a week.

Sign time

ABSOLUTE, definite proof that the property market has peaked and will shortly be going back to hell in a hand-



basket again. The Church Commissioners have made their first big property purchase since the late 1980s. That is, the same Church Commissioners that lost £500 million in the 1980s on an over-enthusiastic interpretation of the parable of the talents and its relevance to the property market. The Commissioners have paid £10 million for a chunk of retail space in Kingston upon Thames. Now all we need is a couple of Dutch or Scandinavian firms to wade in and pay over the odds for gritty London landmarks, and we will know the cycle has finally turned again.

● HOW unlike Colin Dyer, straitlaced chief executive of Courtaulds Textiles, to field a

clutch of skimpily clad models at his results briefing yesterday. He has plainly never heard of La Senza, the underwear firm which arrived on the market last year in a blaze of frilly knickers and is now about as popular as a week-old used joystick.

Black mark

SHELL takes a hard line on bribery, as Karen de Segundo, in charge of external affairs at the oil multinational, has told an anti-corruption conference in Peru. This requires tough decisions. Deciding just when a gift becomes a bribe is not easy, but I was surprised to learn that the limit at Shell is based on a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label, approximate value less than £20. Sounds like Shell expects need a pay rise. But perhaps one could construct a whole new companies index, based on what is and is not acceptable at different businesses. Any offerings?

Wight stuff

AS PART of Rank's decision to spruce up its Butlin's camps and introduce them to the ways of the late 20th century service economy, the £3.5 million advertising campaign has been put up for grabs again. The man chosen to sell Butlin's is Robin Wight, boss

of WCRS. A curious choice, some might think. Wight, a familiar City figure who worked on many of the privatisation programmes, is a dandy noted for his lurid dress sense and is a permanent fixture at the Ivy, London's trendy restaurant much favoured by the luvvies of nearby theatreland.

He lists his interests as horse riding and fine wine, neither of which are on the menu at the average Butlin's. But he might not be so bad at persuading the great unwashed through the camp gates. In 1972 Wight wrote a seminal book on advertising titled *The Day the Pigs Refused to be Driven to Market*.

MARTIN WALLER



The campaign to advertise Butlin's will cost £3.5 million

New Investment Rates

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 1997.

DIRECT SAVINGS ACCOUNTS CURRENTLY ONLY AVAILABLE TO EXISTING BRISTOL & WEST INVESTORS

90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT ANNUAL INTEREST			90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT MONTHLY INTEREST		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	7.30%	5.84%	£100,000+	7.07%	5.65%
£50,000+	7.00%	5.60%	£50,000+	6.78%	5.43%
£25,000+	6.75%	5.40%	£25,000+	6.55%	5.24%
£10,000+	6.70%	5.36%	£10,000+	6.50%	5.20%
£5,000+	5.80%	4.64%	£5,000+	5.65%	4.52%
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT			HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA	BALANCE	GROSS* PA	NET† PA
£100,000+	6.65%	5.32%	£100,000+	4.65%	3.72%
£50,000+	6.60%	5.28%	£50,000+	4.60%	3.68%
£25,000+	6.55%	5.24%	£25,000+	4.55%	3.64%
£10,000+	6.50%	5.20%	£10,000+	4.50%	3.60%
£5,000+	5.65%	4.52%	£5,000+	3.65%	2.92%
TESSA			ASSET TESSA (NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
BALANCE	GROSS PA	BALANCE	GROSS PA	BALANCE	GROSS PA
£9,000+	7.40%	£9,000+	7.60%	£9,000+	7.40%
£5,000+	7.15%	£5,000+	7.35%	£5,000+	7.45%
£3,000+	7.15%	£3,000+	7.35%		

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BRISTOL & WEST



"Cotton wool? Down there by cigars and Hush Puppies"

European growth lifts Devro

Devro, the food casings company, reported a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £25.6 million for the six months to June 30. Earnings were 10.5p (7.5p) a share. The interim dividend rises to 3.1p (2.8p).

The company said the strong pound reduced profits by £3 million. Graeme Alexander, chief executive, said he expected sterling's continued strength to have only slightly less impact on the second half.

Europe managed a 36 per cent improvement in profits on flat turnover but the Americas and Asia both lost ground, and were down 3.9 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively.

Firm recovers

Lionheart, the restructured paintbrush and bathroom accessory manufacturer, has returned to the black after four years of losses with a pre-tax profit of £385,000 (£12.8 million loss) in the first half of the year. Earnings were 0.4p a share (45.1p loss). An interim payout of 0.1p, its first since 1993, is due on November 6.

Tudor record

Recovery in the housing market helped Tudor, the ceramic tile distributor, to return record half-year results with pre-tax profits of £497,000 (£289,000). The interim dividend rises to 1p (0.33p), payable on November 12. A full-year payout of 2.5p is now expected. Earnings were 2.69p (1.35p) a share. The shares fell 1p to 56½p.

Aquarium sale

Compo Holdings, the property investment and development company, is taking over the Brighton Aquarium for £15 million. It is buying Aquarium Entertainment, which holds a long lease on the building. Compo's shares edged ½p firmer to 175½p.

NHP deal

Nursing Home Properties, the specialist property investment group, is acquiring 15 care homes comprising 725 beds for a total of £24.9 million.



Pippa Wicks, finance director of Courtaulds Textiles, and Colin Dyer, chief executive, who expects a £36 million profit

ABP promises quicker return on investments

By CARL MORTISHED

SIR KEITH STUART, chairman of Associated British Ports, promised quicker returns from investment projects in future, after unveiling an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £51.5 million.

Sir Keith was responding to criticism of the company's investment in non-port-related property and poor returns from investment in port activities. He said that recent investments, including £60 million invested in container facilities at Southampton, were long-term projects that would provide returns in later years but

he promised to withdraw from £110 million of non-port property investments.

Shares in ABP fell 18p, to 274½p, after Sir Keith suggested share buybacks were not on the agenda. "This is a growth company, not a utility," he said, and indicated that institutions that had had doubts about the company's policies would now be reassured. Rounding on the alleged criticism from shareholders, he said: "In the case of non-executive directors, it is not the case that they are sitting around like old-age pensioners."

Andrew Smith, the newly appointed managing director of the ports business, announced a strategic review of the business aimed at identifying new sources of income as well as opportunities to reduce costs. It might include expansion into other logistics activities, which left the port when union activity was high, he said. ABP is also looking at expansion overseas, particularly in Asia.

Tonnages passing through ABP ports in the first half grew 2 per cent but increases in grain, steel and motor

vehicles increased by double-digit percentages. Reduced volumes of petroleum through oil terminals were caused by the temporary closure of an oil refinery at Humber. Investment in the ports totalled £52 million in the half year, including expenditure at Southampton aimed at deepening the main channel for a new generation of container ships. Earnings per share are up from 9.2p to 10.3p and the interim dividend is 4p per share, up from 3.5p last time.

Tempus, page 28

Poor door and window sales hit Caradon

By ADAM JONES

DISAPPOINTING door and window sales caused interim profits to fall at Caradon, the building materials group. The company said it was considering spending up to £300 million in Europe on small acquisitions.

Pre-tax profits for the first half of the year dropped to £74 million, compared with £81.3 million. The drop includes a £6.4 million hit from the strength of sterling. Caradon said underlying profitability, stripping out effects of disposals, showed a £4.6 million improvement.

Peter Jansen, chief executive,

said Caradon's markets were "lacklustre" in the six months, causing a fall in sales in all five divisions. Profits rose in four, however, as costs continued to be trimmed.

The doors and windows operation lost £3.5 million after recording a £6.2 million profit in the first half of 1996. The

biggest problems were in the US. Spending on strengthening the Everest window brand in the UK also hit profits.

Measures being taken to revive the overall division's margins included staff cuts and a reduction in the product range. Mr Jansen said he expected the operation to be

Courtaulds Textiles helped by M&S sales

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STRONG sales to Marks & Spencer have led to a recovery in profits at Courtaulds Textiles and should mean no more of its UK production shifting abroad in the short term.

Marks & Spencer now accounts for about 37 per cent of turnover at Courtaulds Textiles, which increased its total sales to the retailer by 5 per cent in the first half, with sales of clothing rising 9 per cent.

Colin Dyer, chief executive of the group that includes the Gossard, Berle, Georges Rech and Well brands, said that the percentage of sales to M&S is continuing to rise. Sales to Victoria's Secret, the top US lingerie retailer, are also growing. He said that full order books mean that the company, which shut two British factories last year, will not shift any more of its 13,000 UK jobs overseas "at least for the next six months".

He added that he was happy with the balance between the companies' 14 overseas and 39 British factories. Courtaulds Textiles has factories in Morocco, Turkey, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

Mr Dyer said that a reorganisation of the group begun last year is on track and within budget. He expects the group to achieve profits this year of at least £36.5 million, equalling its 1995 profit level. The company reported an interim pre-tax profit of £10.4 million compared to a loss after exceptional of £8.5 million a year ago.

Earnings per share were 7.1p compared with a 1.5p loss a year ago. The interim dividend is maintained at 5.2p per share and the level of the final payout will be reviewed at the year end.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Brent International stifled by sterling

SHARES in Brent International fell 4p to 78p yesterday after the company reported a 1.3 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £5.2 million for the six months to June 30. Earlier this year investors enjoyed a run that at one point saw the shares hit 112p, on the back of broker recommendations and a belief that cost controls and new business were finally reaping rewards. However, a lower tax rate and underlying sales growth of 5 per cent were insufficient to rescue profits from the impact of the pound.

Earnings per share, helped by a lower tax rate, rose to 4.5p (4.2p) and the interim dividend is lifted to 1.1p a share from 1p. The industrial division made gains, up 27 per cent for the first half, but the inks and coatings division and imaging management were both down, 5 and 30 per cent respectively. Keith Hutchings, chief executive, said he expected the currency impact on the second half to be a little better relative to that of 1996.

Meggitt profits static

MEGGITT, the electronics and engineering company, suffered a £6 million hit because of the strength of sterling in the first half of the year as its pre-tax profits held at £131 million. Aerospace orders rose 15 per cent, on demand for its flight display system. Demand for its high-specification sensors helped its electronics arm to lift profits 17 per cent, to £5.5 million, before currency reverses. Earnings were 4.1p (3.4p) a share. An interim dividend of 1.5p (1.35p) is proposed.

Whittard moves up

WHITTARD OF CHELSEA, the fast-growing chain of coffee shops, is to move its shares from the Alternative Investment Market to the official list next week. The company, which runs from 97 UK shops and 34 corners in Japanese department stores, lifted pre-tax profits to £2.51 million (£1.8 million) in the year to May 31, with earnings of 9.9p (7.9p) a share. A maiden final dividend of 2.1p, due on November 28, makes 3.1p for the year.

Telspec in the black

SHARES of Telspec, which have plunged from £10.45 to 235p over the past two years, rose yesterday as the telecoms equipment producer returned its first profit for two years. Cost savings from moving the manufacturing base to Perth allowed a pre-tax profit of £2 million (£6 million loss) in the six months to June 30, even though sales slipped to £29.7 million (£32.2 million). No interim payout is planned, but Telspec said there may be a payout by the year end. The shares rose 20p to 25p.

Engineer advances

HADEN MACLELLAN, the specialist engineering company, overcame sterling's strength to lift half-time pre-tax profits to £6.7 million (£6.3 million) on lower turnover. Integration of its new fastener divisions helped margins to record levels, but the company, which named Roger Levinton as chairman, gave warning that gains were likely to be lost through currency fluctuations in the second half. Earnings were 3.8p (3.7p) a share; an interim of 1.3p (1.2p) is due on October 31.

Acquisitions aid Finelist

FINELIST, the acquisitive distributor of vehicle parts and accessories, reported pre-tax profits of £18.5 million (£8.6 million) for the year to June 30. The results included contributions from Motor World, Ferraris Piston Services and Maceess, which were acquired for a total of £125.5 million during the year. Total sales rose to £229 million (£108 million), including a £112 million contribution from new businesses. Earnings rose to 22.9p (17.1p) a share. A final dividend of 5.45p lifts the total to 7.65p (6.4p).

Certainties for the future of risk

Graham Ward assesses some of the changes that can be expected

We are all familiar with the basic tenet of capitalist economics: that rewards are earned in direct correlation to risks taken; returns from higher-risk investments such as equities exceed those from lower-risk investments such as bonds, the return from which exceeds that obtained from even lower-risk investments such as cash.

Investors seek to manage risk by a variety of methods, diversification is an obvious approach, but at a more fundamental level it is the existence of high-quality information about companies and the confidence in capital markets that this engenders, that is the *sine qua non* of the modern economic system. Information is the key to managing the level of risk.

We are in an information age. What changes can we expect in the information demands of investors and the capital markets? I think they can be summed up in three words: "more", "better" and "faster". Some of the changes we can expect over the next ten to 20 years are:

□ **Forward-looking information.** Traditional backward-looking financial statements have plenty of critics. They are held to be too long (and with up to eight pages of directors' remuneration disclosures are getting longer) and of little use in

making predictions as to performance. The annual report and accounts have less and less relevance to the markets, led on a diet of preliminary announcements and analysts' briefings. In the US the SEC has long encouraged disclosure of forward-looking information, and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Bill 1995 was introduced to remove a key barrier to the publication of forecasts and predictions.

□ **Risk reporting.** How does a company manage its risk? What are the key risks that may affect its future performance? This is the kind of information that capital markets will increasingly demand. A degree of risk reporting is encouraged in the operating and financial review, although take-up has been limited. In the future companies that provide details should benefit from a lower cost of capital as investors' perceptions of the uncertainty surrounding risk diminish.

□ **Environmental reporting.** With continued public pressure for stricter environmental laws, increased disclosure of companies' environmental performance, whether mandatory or voluntary, can be expected. It is important that companies demonstrate quality of performance and for observers not to assume that higher spending means greener.

□ **Non-financial performance.**



Graham Ward says information is the key to risk management

measures. Already seen as best practice, companies will be expected increasingly to provide information on measures such as market share, product innovation and customer satisfaction.

□ **Enfranchising the individual investor.** There is a common perception that there are two classes of shareholders: institutions, fed with information, briefings and meetings; and individuals. Developments in information technology and the Internet will fuel de-

mands from individuals for simultaneous releases of information given to institutions.

□ **Real-time financial information.** As technology advances the next step will be a demand for ever more current information. How will this be presented and how, if at all, will it be audited? How will responsibility for decisions based on this information be allocated?

□ **Globalisation.** As barriers to trade come down, business is becoming more global. In the

future freedom for companies to seek finance outside their national markets will grow. This will increase the demand for information, as investors seek greater knowledge to compensate for their lower level of familiarity with the environment in which foreign companies operate. Running parallel with this trend is likely to be increased international standardisation of information disclosure requirements. Future internationalisation of attestation must surely follow.

But "better" must mean more relevant. Assuming that more information will of itself do the job is not good enough. Company reporting must sift out disclosure for the sake of it and focus on clear presentation of what is useful.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is undertaking a key project, 2020 Vision, to examine the long-term needs of businesses resulting from likely developments in capital markets. The aim is to help business to succeed by helping our members to give high-quality, forward-looking advice.

Readers who wish to offer views on the project should write to me at ICAEW, Chartered Accountants' Hall, PO Box 433, Moorgate Place, London, EC2P 2BJ, or electronically to Graham-N.Ward@europe.notes.pw.com.

The author is chairman of the Technical Directorate, ICAEW, and deputy chairman, World Energy Group, Price Waterhouse.

Time to take an axe to the Frizzie camel

IT WAS P. G. Wodehouse who established the basic principle for dealing with tax inspectors. It comes in the lyrics he wrote for a show called *Sitting Pretty*. "You simply hit them with an axe" was his advice. It is excellent advice and applicable to all occasions. In particular it is a principle that people working on financial reporting rules should take to heart. (All rulebooks are too long and need ruthless pruning.) In particular the teams working on producing a universal financial reporting standard for small companies. This is known as the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE), and is known universally as "the Frizzie". It currently exists in exposure draft form. But a final form is to be published before Christmas.

Its problem is an old one. Small firms are diverse and tend to bulge with qualities and practices that they see as unique to themselves. But the basic tenet of financial reporting is that fundamental rules should apply to everyone. No one believes that the rules for

the other principle, which is currently being espoused by Arthur Andersen, is "avoiding the camel". This is a variant on the Wodehouse principle and is detailed in the firm's response to the exposure draft. This is what Andersen says: "The tenet is often espoused that accounting standards are written to cope with 80 per cent or 90 per cent of transactions and arrangements; they cannot cover every situation which may arise in practice. However, during the process of developing an accounting standard commentators ask for more guidance and as a result the standard becomes longer and potentially more complex. The Accounting Standards Board staff is, we fully acknowledge, aware of this practice."

"We believe that there is already evidence that the FRSSE is becoming the proverbial committee camel and moving away from the original concept of producing a concise standard for smaller entities, which provides guidance on 80 per cent to 90 per cent of matters arising in practice." In particular Andersen makes the point that a rule on group accounts has crept into the standard. In the vast majority of situations such a rule will not be relevant. Much better to chop it out now and allow auditors to use their judgment or request advice when the isolated occasion requires it. The application of these two principles will solve many of the problems of the Frizzie suffers. In particular it will be seen as being user-friendly, which at the moment it is not. The end result would also be more understandable to the owners of small companies who tend currently to be baffled at the hoops through which their auditors are having to jump. If an auditor has to sit down with the owner of a small business and explain the final accounts to him then the whole process has failed.

But we should be optimistic. The ASB has this week set up a committee on accounting for smaller entities (CASE). It consists of experts, including Teresa Graham, who are drawn from all areas of smaller businesses and their advisers. The idea is for them to get public. The committee's first meeting is just over a week away. But it will be a standing committee. Its long-term job will be to act as a financial reporting and smaller businesses. Its immediate task is to sharpen a few axes.



ROBERT BRUCE

Artificial advice

KEITH DANIELS, deputy president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, decries Gordon Brown's aim to bring in an all-embracing anti-avoidance rule to end artificial tax dodges that advisers dream up. He took the Chancellor to task over the artificially contrived rules that the tax system imposes on taxpayers, said Daniels, should "ex-

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

punge those artificially contrived rules which have no economic purpose other than to entrap the unwary, ill-advised, or unrepresented taxpayer". At least they are both speaking the same language.

Dialogue jam

NO ONE should say that the English ICA pays no attention

to its own advice. Today it publishes a guide to *Corporate Dialogue in the Digital Age*. This talks of the great changes facing corporate reporting and is stuffed with phrases like "drivers of change in the digital economy". The guide is free to anyone phoning the institute. But it has also put it on to their Website at <http://www.icaew.co.uk>. Download it at your leisure.

Offside

THE football mania that is sweeping Britain has reached the previously sensible halls of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. It applied to Fifa, football's governing body, for an exemption to

allow any of its members to be a football player's agent without having to apply for an individual licence. Fifa apparently showed ACCA's last application the yellow card. Says Anthony Booth, of ACCA: "Fifa may have misunderstood the nature of work of accountants in the UK when it considered our previous application." They were obviously unaware of the UK accounting profession's penchant for own goals.

ROBERT BRUCE

Shares close at low for the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

RETAILERS, FOOD

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
120.00	119.00	117.00	118.50	+0.50	+0.4%	18.5
115.00	114.00	113.00	114.50	+0.50	+0.4%	17.5
110.00	109.00	108.00	109.50	+0.50	+0.4%	16.5
105.00	104.00	103.00	104.50	+0.50	+0.4%	15.5
100.00	99.00	98.00	99.50	+0.50	+0.4%	14.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

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NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown on President Harrison Ford in the silly, but fun, *Air Force One*



No way to treat the President: Gary Oldman employs a little gunpoint diplomacy in his dealings with Harrison Ford on board *Air Force One*

Affirmative action

In recent films, American Presidents have not been dignified fellows. They have shot their mistresses, welcomed invading Martians and been replaced by a lookalike. President James Marshall at least begins the preposterous and splashy *Air Force One* by acting presidential. Speaking in Moscow, he gives word that America will never give in to terrorists, such as the fascist General Radek of Kazakhstan, recently arrested in an American-Russian commando raid. He, his loving wife and daughter and his staff, then board *Air Force One*, the world's most secure aircraft, which is promptly hijacked by Radek's supporters.

Since the President is played by Harrison Ford, feelings blanketed by a dour expression, he still looks like a man in control of the Western world. But the script pushes him into playing the virtuous hero of a thousand action movies. He hides out in the plane's underbelly, using guerrilla tactics honed in service in Vietnam to outfox the troops of Gary Oldman, the Radek cheerleader dreaming of a resurgent Mother Russia. He thwacks. He kills. He shouts: "Get off my plane!"

Provided one leaves one's brain at home, all this is fun of an old-fashioned sort. Wolfgang Petersen, the director, is a practised hand at sustaining tension in an enclosed space: he made *Das Boot*, and that epic's U-boat commander, Jürgen Prochnow, reappears here briefly as Radek.

Oldman's negotiating tactic is to shoot a member of Marshall's staff every half-hour until Radek is released. So phone calls fly between the plane and Washington: options are debated, faces sweat. Those around are all cartoons, from Oldman's hijacker to Glenn Close's Vice-President, permanently in crisis mode, and Dean Cain's Defence Secretary, itching to wield his military might. But they do the job expected, with force and flair.

In time, though, the film's credibility gap becomes too huge for comfort. The sheer

Air Force One
Odeon Leicester Square
15, 124 mins
Preposterous,
old-fashioned fun

187
Warner West End
15, 119 mins
Meek teacher versus
sociopathic pupils

The Watermelon Woman
ICA Cinema, 80 mins
The first African-American lesbian feature

Elstree Calling!
Barbican Cinema
Enjoyable season of
golden oldies

pile-up of daredevil antics, fireballs and gung-ho rhetoric limits the impact of the President's adventures. Nobody in Hollywood seems to know when enough is enough. Only audiences do.

Restraint is certainly not among the most visible qualities of the director Kevin Reynolds, doyen of the foolish movie (he made *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* and *Waterworld*). Look at his handling of 187. At times of great stress, sounds and images are forced into a subjective blur or a slow-motion crawl. At times of intimacy, the camera forms tender pirouettes. No cliché is left ungarbished.

No doubt some of this feast is attributable to the cameraman, Ericson Core, a new recruit from music videos for the likes, we are told, of *Toad the Wet Sprocket*. We should be grateful, at least, for his exhilarating opening shot, which sends us whizzing with Samuel L. Jackson on his bike along Brooklyn's streets, through a school yard, down the corridors and into his classroom for a physics lesson.

These are Jackson's good days, before he is stabbed in the back by a violent pupil whose grades he refused to improve. (The title refers to the police penal code number for homicide.) When we next meet this high-school teacher, 15

months later, he is gingerly taking his first steps back to work. The place is Los Angeles, his classroom in a school that seems even more of a war zone than his previous one. The big question is, how will Jackson respond when the pupils turn nasty?

Unfortunately, this is not a question we ache to see answered. Good intentions certainly shaped the script by Scott Yagemann, a veteran of seven years of teaching in Los Angeles's public schools. But hand-me-down characters and situations are no way to raise audience consciousness of the battle for education. Up they pop, like floating debris: the gang leader who struts attitude; the pupil with signs of literary ability; the hopeful woman teacher (Kelly Rowan) in need of a companion; the burnt-out cynic who continues teaching just to pocket his pay cheque (John Heard).

What makes the clichés particularly irritating is that they whirl around a central character whose behaviour is often impenetrable. Is Jackson shell-shocked or terminally meek? And, when he flares back to life in the finale, is he reverting to form or turning into a brand-new psychopath? Since the script shuts us out from his background, family history and motivations, we have little to go on. Jackson is a good enough actor to give his character the subtlest shading, but neither Reynolds's direction nor Yagemann's script offers him much of a chance.

After two such samples of Hollywood confusion and overkill, it is a relief to get out to the fringes of independent production with *The Watermelon Woman*. Cheryl Dunye's film comes hailed as the first African-American lesbian feature. If so, it bears its responsibilities lightly, content to slip issues of black history, lesbian dating, race, class and gender into a frisky tale of Cheryl, a video store drudge with film-making ambitions. Dunye assumes that role, and her natural buoyancy contrasts sharply with the heavy sarcasm of Valerie

NEW ON VIDEO

GABBEH
ICA Projects, U, 1996
ONE of Iran's liveliest directors, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, planned a documentary about the carpet-weaving tribes of southeast Iran. Then a story intruded and the film took flight, becoming an extraordinary visual experience bathed, like the tribe's clothes, in fantasy and the brightest of colours.

IRMA VEP
ICA Projects, 18, 1996
A HONG KONG star gets in deep water in Paris shooting a remake of the silent serial *Les Vampires*. In this playful and poetic oddity from director Olivier Assayas, Maggie Cheung takes the central role; much of the film's charm comes from her innocent response to the hurly-burly caused by her burnt-out director (Jean-Paul Leaud) and a lesbian costar.

HERE COME THE TELETUBBIES
BBC, U, 1997
EVEN the most dedicated adult fans may find 60 minutes of the hallucinogenic TV series too much to cope with as Dipsy, LaaLaa,

Po and the infamous Tinky Winky fall over, lose their favourite things, and follow a trail of orange sploshes identified as Tubbycustard. Another video spin-off, *Dance with the Teletubbies*, is also available.

RIDICULE
PolyGram, 15, 1996
PATRICE LECONTE'S diverting costume piece transports us to Louis XVI's court at Versailles in 1780, where human peacocks strut the ground and the air is thick with intrigue and badinage. The acting is fine, the script clever, and the period trappings never clog the screen.

SHINE
Buena Vista, 15, 1996
ON THE face of it, an Australian classical pianist's mental breakdown does not seem the stuff of a popular hit, but Scott Hicks's uplifting film has reached wide audiences. Geoffrey Rush is touching and funny as the adult David Helfgott, who crumpled under the strain of being a child prodigy dominated by an autocratic father. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

Walker, her comic sidekick at the Philadelphia video store. Over time Walker becomes a bore, but little else does as Dunye begins her film project, researching the life of a fictitious black actress from the 1930s, popularly known as the Watermelon Woman. Meanwhile, Cheryl's love life takes a new turn with the onset of the poised and white Diane (Guinevere Turner, from *Go Fish*).

This is a ragbag of a movie, but a very friendly one, bursting with fun and good ideas. Back in 1960, Manchester City Council took umbrage at the film title *Hell is a City*. For the city was Manchester, and Val Guest's drama used the place and the surrounding moors as a backdrop for

thieving, murder and brute force. The film is revived in the context of *Elstree Calling!*, a two-week Barbican survey of 70 years of cinematic endeavour based at the cluster of studios at Borehamwood.

The earliest examples can be seen on Sunday, with Hitchcock's *The Ring*, a silent melodrama, and *Blackmail*, the first British sound film to be released. But films from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s predominate. Cliff Richard warbles away in *The Young Ones*. Diana Dors faces execution in *Yield to the Night*. Jack Nicholson goes bonkers in *The Shining*. And *Murder on the Orient Express* chugs on, heavy with stars, from Ingrid Bergman to John Gielgud.

'Wicked, crazy fun'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

AIR FORCE ONE
Damian Samuels, 20: Step aside Keanu Reeves and Charlie Sheen: Harrison Ford is the ultimate action hero.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: The performances by Ford and Gary Oldman lend much-needed credibility to this unoriginal movie.

Sarah Crook, 18: Pretty much what you'd expect.

Tim Thornton, 21: Wicked, crazy fun. Oldman is the most villainous of villains.

187
Damian: Grange Hill with guns and knives. Depressing and rather dull.

Leslie: A most unusual movie to come out of Hollywood — bleak, serious and very powerful.

SNAP VERDICT

Sarah: A strong, dark film with a fine performance from Samuel L. Jackson.

Tim: With less attitude than his normal roles, Jackson acts his socks off.

THE WATERMELON WOMAN
Damian: Watermelons look mouthwatering and juicy until the pipe gets in the way — rather like the awful acting in this so-called film.

Leslie: A very low budget documentary-style movie that tells us nothing new. Very odd.

Sarah: Neither entertaining nor educational.

Tim: Don't be enticed by the interesting title. This is as dull as a wet weekend in Wigan.

JOHN CUSACK MINNIE DRIVER ALAN ARKIN DAN AYKROYD

"MISS THIS AND NEVER HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH IN A CINEMA AGAIN." — *Sabot*

"A SPARKLING COMEDY... the script is littered with crackling one-liners." — *The Independent*

"The bloodsplattered black comedy thriller of the year. No contest." — *NME*

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Stepping on to new stages of experience

Nicholas Payne, director of the Royal Opera, tells Rodney Milnes about how his company is preparing to hit the road

On Saturday the Royal Opera launches its two years on the road with a new production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* in the refurbished Barbican Theatre, refurbished to the tune of £1.9 million and now boasting not one but two orchestra pits and something called an "electro-acoustic enhancement system", presumably a polite term for amplification.

The Handel is part of a defiant programme of six new productions to be mounted by the Royal Opera between now and Christmas — defiant and ambitious, and not precisely the "shambles" that Lord Gower, chairman of the Arts Council, so generously designated the plans of his major client. And those productions will be seen in five different theatres, seven if you count Laban's Apollo and the Festival Hall for the Royal Ballet.

There are doubtless those who will derive sadistic pleasure from the sight of these stuffy national companies on tour and the shock it will cause them, but it is no shock to those in charge. Nicholas Payne worked for 15 years for the Welsh National and Opera North, whose very existence was based on touring, and the RO's technical director John Harrison started in the profession at Sadler's Wells in the days when there were two separate companies, one of which was always on the road.

Asked if there have been any horror stories yet, Payne says that there could have been "no greater horror story than trying to work in the Royal Opera House last spring. Going to Edinburgh and a properly equipped theatre where you could put on a new production without tears was an absolute joy."

Harrison reports some teething troubles at the Barbican, which was "not quite finished", and rehearsal time was lost because of, among other things, a fire alarm with a mind of its own. But McAlpine moved back in at the weekend and sorted everything out, and now the main problem is that no one has had any holiday. Straight after the Farewell Gala the company went to New York for the Lincoln Centre Festival, thence to Edinburgh, and then straight to the Barbican for Saturday's opening. Harrison has been busy consulting over orchestra pits in new venues such as the Shaftesbury and the Apollo and some new tying sys-

tems, the costs usually shared out between them.

Then there is the problem of dressing rooms for orchestras, choruses and corps de ballet. Harrison describes the roof of the Apollo as "Portakabin city". This week he has been inspecting the new "theatre" arrangement at the Festival Hall, which will give the Royal Ballet more stage space than English National Ballet ever had.

There have been no insuperable problems about devising shows for different theatres. "We said from

Payne has had to remain quick on his feet to keep up

the beginning that Rameau's *Platée* had to fit the Edinburgh Festival Theatre, the Barbican and the space in Berkeley, California," Payne says. "Adrianne Lobel is a very practical designer and went off and did it. It was harder for Joanne Parker on *Giulio Cesare* because at the start we didn't know it was going to move from the Barbican to the Shaftesbury, and that meant quite a tricky redesign."

The season has basically been devised in the 18 months since the Tower Bridge theatre project collapsed, and in opera 18 months is a very short time indeed. It is no secret that other theatres were in prospect, among them the Palladium (*Oliver!* is still running and running), the Lyceum (a non-starter they were forced to consider) and the Savoy ("acoustically dead," Payne says).

He had to be very quick on his feet to keep up. "For some time I planned two programmes together, a Tower Bridge season, and a sort of Lyceum-plus season, with runs of things like double-cast *Barbers* and *Merry Widows*." Tower Bridge vanished, the Lyceum turned into the Shaftesbury, and the refurbished Barbican hove into view.

And Payne had to remain quick on his feet in adapting his repertory. "I had been talking to Colin

Davis about *The Turn of the Screw* for years, but I'd planned *Béatrice et Bénédict* as a nice 70th birthday present for him. When it turned out to be the Barbican instead of whichever theatre it was originally — I honestly can't remember — it seemed best to bring forward the *Screw* and postpone the *Berlioz* until we get to Sadler's Wells next year. And Deborah Warner has always wanted to do the Britten."

The process by which the Albert Hall *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci* turned into *Paul Bunyan* in Snape, King's Lynn and the Shaftesbury is more tortuous. Part of it was saving money: "I cancelled *Cav* and *Pag* before the new finance director had a chance to tell me to, and *Otello* is a piece you can perform in a big public way to a wider audience than can get to it in Covent Garden. Elijah Moshinsky and Timothy O'Brien have adapted their production, building it out into the arena."

But Payne wanted to find something else for the *Cav* and *Pag* director, Francesco Zambello, to do, and he wanted to be part of the East Anglian Year of Opera and Musical Theatre. "If we were the only company not doing something there it would have looked pretty snooty, especially as we were on the road." Result: *Paul Bunyan*, Britten's and Auden's Broadway operetta.

As for the *Widow*, Graham Vick has always wanted to direct it, and Payne loves it. "It hasn't been done in London for a long time, the publishers were interested in a new translation by Jeremy Sams, and quite keen for it to be launched by the Royal Opera rather than the Surbiton Operatic Society."

The *Barber* nearly foundered when the conductor fell through, but meanwhile "we'd got three rather nice casts together, and I was sitting on an aeroplane to Stuttgart with Nigel Lowery, who shyly asked if I'd ever consider him as a director. I offered him a ridiculously low production budget and he said: 'Fine, money isn't the point of the piece'."

Quick on his feet, quick to back a hunch, and quick to find the right collaborators — it is hard to think of any other opera director who could have turned a potential embarrassing shambles into so substantial an initial season in such a short time.



Jean-Paul Fouchécourt in *Platée*, one of Royal Opera's six new productions heading for five theatres between now and Christmas

BBC PROMS: Visiting European orchestras find plenty of passion and grandeur in Stravinsky's cantata *Oedipus Rex* and Bruckner's Symphony No 7

Swedes with complex

In both the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra's Proms, the Swedes chose to share the platform with the Sons of Orpheus, a fine male-voice choir. Here, it seems, was Sweden's national orchestra wishing to identify and bond with Sweden's national voice, in the country's formidable choral tradition.

On Monday, they challenged each other fiercely in a highly concentrated performance of Stravinsky's operatic *Oedipus Rex*, conducted by the orchestra's principal conductor, Neeme Järvi. It was a pity that it had occurred to nobody to synchronise the pronunciations of the doomed king's name: to "Oydyus". Anthony Rolfe Johnson and his solo colleagues would reassure them of the love of "Eddyus". A quibble became an irritant simply because the choir's articulation was so admirable, and the solo team so strong.

Rolfe Johnson, as Oedipus,

Gothenburg SO/
Järvi
Albert Hall/Radio 3

traced compellingly the trajectory of the king's downfall, moving from an intense urgency to a fearless hubris, and on to a sighing elegy. His Jocasta was Anne Sofie von Otter, and their duet of panic and evasion, punctuated by accusatory brass, was thrilling indeed.

Around them, as unwelcome messengers of truth, stood Alan Ogie's stalwart Cron and Messenger, the Norwegian bass Ronnie Johansen's somewhat score-bound Tiresias, and the plangent shepherd of Icelandic tenor Jón Rúnar Arason. Michael Pennington was charged with one of the trickiest roles of all: that of Cocteau's passionate yet alienating Narrator. Not for years have I heard the tone

convincingly judged. Pennington was just too gentle, too placid. An admirably cool pitch was made tepid by under-exploited timing.

All in all, though, this was a powerful performance, confirming the new-found glory of an orchestra that went on to give its final Proms display in Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*. The loving care with which Järvi has fine-tuned his orchestra in the past 16 years showed itself in the subtlety and nuance of the string playing which supported the *Games of Pairs*, in the focus of the brass choir, and in the sophistication of the woodwind as declamation swirls to upbeat in the *Elegia*. This was a performance of meticulous cueings, finely calculated weights and measures, and attractive understatement which served only to set the virtuosity of both music and musicians into even sharper relief.

HILARY FINCH

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EURO/Haitink
Albert Hall/Radio 3

vertical chords, his archaic little turns at cadence points, his hard-working counterpoint — all seemed to live in high, bright air. The huge body of strings seemed at



Bernard Haitink: touch of a master conductor

times almost weightless in the first movement; the woodwind seemed to be improvising their episodes, so subtle and supple was their phrasing.

The programme note referred to Bruckner's "rediscovery of simplicity"; and that, precisely, was the *raison d'être* of this performance. The depth of resonance in the solemn chords of the slow movement was never allowed to impede the onward flow of melody, so that the journey to ever brighter harmonic light, and the movement's great, pealing apotheosis, was gloriously expedited. And Haitink's caution with Bruckner's *sehr schnell* (very quick) tempo direction in the Scherzo held it back just enough to enable it to bound forward with rare rhythmic buoyancy.

Just as the opening of the Bruckner had seemed a microcosm of the entire symphony, so Emanuel Ax, the soloist in Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, seemed to take his cue from the work's extraordinary central movement, and to

work outwards from it. In it, a deep pool of stillness is troubled, though never quite destroyed, by the violent shock of dissonance; the movement is often associated with the image of Orpheus taming the Furies.

Ax both intensified that

shock in a trill of terrifying ferocity, and prepared the ear and spirit for the movement's wider vision in a spacious, far-sighted first movement of loving detail, drawing in his young orchestral colleagues in an almost chamber-musical interchange of idea and expression. This, one of the most enriching Proms of the season, will be repeated on Radio 3 at 2pm tomorrow.

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■ **BERLIOZ** *Les Nuits d'été*/Arias Graham/Royal Opera House Orch/Nelson Sony SK 62730 *** £15.49 THIS highly distinguished Berlioz recital marks out Susan Graham as Frederica von Stade's natural successor in the French repertoire. Both American mezzos have an instinctive way of handling the language, a grace in their singing and a natural wit in shaping a phrase.

It comes out in the opening *Villanelle* from the song cycle *Les nuits d'été* — Decca, incidentally, is about to reissue the von Stade version under Seiji Ozawa — and

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■ **RACHMANINOV** *Piano Concertos Nos 2 & 3* Ogawa/Malmö SO/Hughes BIS-CD-900 *** £14.99 A COUPLING of Rachmaninov's two warhorses may seem less than promising, but this disc is well worth a second look. The Japanese pianist Noriko Ogawa brings to both works a very special inwardness and sense of poetry. Her soft-grained lyricism is not what we are used to hearing in such concertos, but this is individual, wonderfully responsive playing.

Not that she is lacking in the necessary virtuosity — indeed, she triumphs over the more difficult of Rachmaninov's alternative cadenzas in the first movement of No 3 — but she is less interested in hammering the keyboard than in tracing, for example, the Chopinesque filigree of that movement's figuration.

Owain Arwel Hughes matches her all the way with a superbly nuanced orchestral accompaniment, and the concerto's final catharsis, when it comes, is all the more overwhelming — a heartwarming upsurge rather than a block-buster peroration. The hakeneyed Second Concerto is no less fresh and full of elegant turns of phrase.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

CHAMBER
Hilary Finch

■ **BEETHOVEN** *String Quartets Op 59 & 74* Vanbrugh Quartet Intim Musik IMCD 045, 046. ** Two CDs £12.49 each AFTER a summer spent at their West Cork, Charming Music Festival, the Vanbrugh Quartet, the resident chamber ensemble at Ireland's RTE broadcasting company, have released the latest two volumes in their continuing complete Beethoven quartet cycle, truthfully and unfussily recorded in an all-Swedish production.

The third volume focuses on the first and second Op 59 quartets, and reveals the Vanbrugh's strong, plain-speak-

ing style: four bold individual voices working in an energetic democracy of chamber music-making.

The first movement keeps its feet firmly but buoyantly on the ground, and the austere blend of voices in the slow movement makes for a restrained elegy.

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THE TIMES
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CHANGING TIMES

Father of a modern science or fabricator of fictionalised lives? Elaine Showalter analyses a new biography of Sigmund Freud



A biographer's dream: Freud with his daughter, Sophie

In an era when every gap in information is assumed to prove a cover-up, and every exemplary life is perceived as a masquerade, Sigmund Freud has been an irresistible target for biographers. The Freud Estate has closed some archives; well, obviously they must contain evidence of misconduct. Everything we know about Freud's life shows it to have been respectable to the point of dullness; young Sigmund was not abused or mistreated by his parents; had an excellent education; may have been a virgin when he married at 30, was faithful to his wife and fathered six normal children; maintained his professional and family life with decorum; and died with courage and dignity on Yom Kippur, 1939. Thus, by the invariable laws of what Joyce Carol Oates has aptly called "pathography" he must have been a lecher, an adulterer, a drug addict, a cheat, a cynic and an opportunist.

During the past decade, the intellectual and scientific critique of psychoanalysis has also been a debunking of Freud, an effort to dismantle the legend of genius and to discredit the myth of Freud as truth-seeker and humanist. Scholars, critics, and biographers have disparaged Freud's originality, questioned his integrity, and hinted at sexual scandals, such as an affair with his sister-in-law Minna, underpinned by the absence of evidence and Freud's description of Minna as

"very ugly" and "fat as a hippopotamus". Educated by Freud to suspect denial, concealment and defence mechanisms, we use his own discoveries against him. Moreover, as Paul Ferris notes: "Few people have given such hostages to biography as Freud, who left clues—in dreams, in letters, in his voluminous works—that encourage discovery."

In writing a new biography of Freud, Ferris, who has previously written biographies of Dylan and Caitlin Thomas, has followed up these "clues", and drawn upon the new information about patient case histories unearthed by Peter Swales and other researchers, and the critiques of Freud's methods and conclusions presented by Jeffrey Masson, Frederick Crews and Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen, agreeing that the Anna O. case, among others, was part of psychoanalysis's "vast anthology of tall tales".

But he also presents himself as intellectually neutral, more interested in the personality of Freud than in the legitimacy of psychoanalysis. "My sympathies," Ferris explains,

Is there a doctor on the couch?

DR FREUD

By Paul Ferris
Sinclair-Stevenson, £25
ISBN 1 85619 390 X

"are with those who find flawed Freud more interesting, because more believable, than the traditional figure." At the same time, he insists that Freud's great ambitions excused his flaws. If Freud used "ruthless means" — guile, deception, deviousness — to achieve the ends he believed in, it is no more than most innovators have to do.

Ruthless? This is neutral? Ferris's stance sounds reasonable at first, but it has produced an unconvincing and unrevealing book. Freud's colleague, Joseph Breuer, was among the first of many who sought to probe the contradictions between the placid external life and the volcanic inner life. As Freud noted in a letter, Breuer told him that "hidden under

the surface of timidity, there lay in me an extremely daring and fearless human being. I had always thought so, but never dared tell anyone. I have often felt as though I had inherited all the defiance and all the passions with which our ancestors defended the Temple, and could gladly sacrifice my life for one great moment in history."

But Ferris offers little interpretation or explanation of this paradox: "Freud," he concludes, "is what you want him to be." Ferris suggests that he might be a novelist manque ("There was always a novelist in Freud, trying to get out") but makes less than he might of the brilliant thumbnail sketches Freud regularly offered of his contemporaries. On the King's Abdication, for example: "What is going on with the King? I think he is a poor fellow, no intellectual, none too bright, probably a latent homosexual who came to this woman by way of a friend and found his potency with her and therefore cannot get by without her."

He portrays Freud as money-conscious and something of a hus-

tier, quoting a letter to Ernest Jones in 1924, making light of the complaints of some American patients: "What is the use of Americans, if they bring no money? They are not good for anything else." But he also notes that in 1924, Samuel Goldwyn offered Sigmund Freud \$100,000 to advise on a movie about great lovers in history, beginning with Antony and Cleopatra — Freud declined the quick bucks. On one hand, Ferris sees Freud as something of a class snob; on the other, he describes Freud's gift of 200 crowns to a poor Viennese psychology student with headaches — a gift that represented real generosity.

The most useful part of Dr Freud situates Freud's theories of sexual drives in the context of the work done by other German sexologists, including Kraft-Ebbing, Magnus Hirschfeld and Iwan Bloch. Ferris is also interesting in discussing and interpreting Freud's dreams, as he described them in letters or disguised them in case histories. He even contributes some of his own dreams: "I dreamed once that a house where I had lived and been happy was burning. I saw the roof fall in. The dream told me what I knew but couldn't admit to myself: that a phase of my life was over. Perhaps Freud's dreams can be fitted into some such scheme." Perhaps they can, but the current disputes over Freud demand more conviction and more courage.

No more than speculation

Small change, big bills or flexible friends: Howard

Davies accounts for our interest in cash

Neither Dorothy Rowe nor James Buchanan is an obvious choice to explain the meaning of money. Rowe is a clinical psychologist; Buchanan is a former *Financial Times* correspondent turned novelist. Each struggles, personally, with the phenomenon of money and its manifestations through history: why and how did money come into being, how has its significance changed over time, how do individuals think about it, what — after all — is money for?

Yet, as I followed Buchanan and Rowe in their inquiries, another, more troubling, question arose in my mind: what (indeed whom) are these books for? Neither exhibits an original theory or proposition to prove or disprove, neither sets out to furnish the reader with useful precepts or advice. They are the literary equivalents of what weekend motorists used to call "going for a run" — driving around to give the motor a bit of exercise.

Now we live in a more purposeful age: we must justify our journeys, indeed the very provision of our cars, to the Deputy Prime Minister, no less. So how do Rowe and Buchanan seek to convince us that their journeys are really necessary?

Rowe's defence might perhaps rest on the notion that there is some value in juxtaposing individuals' views of the role of money in their lives with an assessment of the changing character of financial markets. Unfortunately the views of her witnesses are uninteresting, and her assessment of markets unoriginal and uninspired. So we are left with some routine thoughts about values, and a few

plonking observations about economic policy. When we learn that unemployment (which makes a late entrance from stage left) should be "organised like National Service" and seen as "a civic duty", we know it is time to move on.

To James Buchanan, a far more interesting case. About half of *Frozen Desire*, the first six chapters in fact, is a worthwhile detour. Indeed, one might go further. The discussions of Dutch banking in the 17th century, the great

FROZEN DESIRE
An Inquiry into the Meaning of Money
By James Buchanan
Picador, £17.99
ISBN 0 330 35527 9

THE REAL MEANING OF MONEY
By Dorothy Rowe
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255329 5

tulip scam and particularly John Law's Mississippi scheme in France in 1720, are quite fascinating. We learn that one bulb of *Semper Augustus* sold in Amsterdam for 2,000 guilders — 400 more than Rembrandt was paid to paint the *Night Watch* — and that John Law, after the collapse of his paper money scheme (which bankrupted the French Government) lived on for a decade as a gambler fleeing tourists in Venice.

But Buchanan does not just wish to tell a good tale. He has been in his boxer, has other fish to fry. Buchanan is a clever fellow, and can see clearly, as many lesser men have failed to do, that market prices are all wrong, and that the efficient

markets theory "cannot withstand even a moment's thought". He has also seen through the fragile facade of the economic profession. Economists "waste their lives in a prattle of non-accelerating inflation rates of unemployment or rather, since such matters cannot long occupy an educated mind, in interminable telephone conversations with their stockholders".

It is a privilege to have this insight into daily life on the editorial desks of the *Financial Times*. But it reveals Buchanan's pompous side, which comes wholly to dominate the second half of the book, as we are told why he has written it or, should I say, as "this enterprise reveals its inner purpose".

It transpires that Buchanan's great great grandfather lost a few bob in the crash of the City of Glasgow Bank in 1878, and James has been brooding on the sheer injustice of it ever since. This may amount to a sound motive for the writer, but it lacks a little something as a spur to the general reader. As does the news that, four generations on, this Buchanan has, with the help of a "slow-witted bank", made one "thumping turn and then another" with money earned hacking in Saudi Arabia.

In spite of this cheering good fortune, Buchanan is persuaded that the financial system is close to collapse, and that soon "the Age of Money... will itself draw, as all things under the sun, to an end". Well, perhaps. But, for now, if you have £17.99 to spare, it will still buy you a decent bottle of champagne.

Howard Davies is the Chairman of the Securities and Investments Board.



BILL SANDERSON

Ocean and a little bit of sky

Felipe Fernández-Armesto

PHANTOM ISLANDS OF THE ATLANTIC
The Legends of Seven Lands that Never Were
By Donald S. Johnson
Sovereign Press, £14.99
ISBN 0 285 63395 3

THE medieval Atlantic was an ocean of the imagination. Few people had been far into it, except in fancy. For monarchs it was the arena of a space race; for explorers, a playground for speculative adventure. In writers it inspired the equivalent of today's sci-fi fantasies.

The standard plot of late medieval pulp fiction included a hero down on his luck — usually an exiled prince — who would venture his life on the sea in an attempt to repair his fortunes. Sometimes he would face enslavement, like that of the silk-sailed singing ship in which Prince Arnaldos was carried off in the romance which bears his name, or the enchanted vessel in which an invisible empress abducted the desirable Count Partinuples. After sorcery overcome and valour enacted, the hero would discover or conquer an island-realm, become its ruler and — in the standard fade-out — marry a princess. This was the kind of plot satirised by Cervantes in *Don Quixote* when he made Sancho Panza plead to be "governor of some island" with, if possible, "a little bit of the sky" above it.

The ocean was a moral environment, where God intervened with greater freedom than on land, through storms and shipwrecks. He guided the writers' characters by means of the wind, which was considered a phenomenon of nature peculiarly close to God. The hero often had to face trials alone, with ennobling effects. The earliest illustrated edition of Columbus's reports of his first voyage shows a typical image: a solitary figure manipulating the rigging of a ship against a backdrop of fabulous islands.

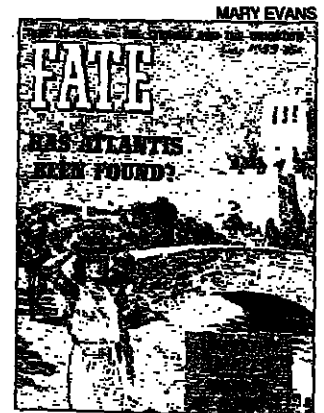
Of all the protagonists of this fiction, none was more popular than Amadis of Gaul, the personification of every chivalric virtue — a Lancelot with the human weaknesses left out. Though the original version of his story ended with his tragic death, mistakenly inflicted in a joust by his own son, the best-known text transformed him into a once-and-future hero — like Arthur, Alexander and Charlemagne. Arthur himself was an Atlantic seafarer in some versions of his legend. Almost equally renowned were St Brendan, adrift in search of saints, and Brutus, presumed escapee from the sack of Troy, whose ocean voyages led him to Albion, where he did battle with giants and founded a race of British kings.

Explorers borrowed fictional heroes' names and imitated the trajectories of their lives. Columbus and Vespucci described a world which chivalric romance had already lodged in their heads. The islands among which Amadis plied found their way onto maps. Exploration multiplied error. Mirages and cloud-banks were transmuted into islands by alchemical imaginations. Real sightings were recorded many times over in different positions because the technology of the time was insufficient to fix the co-ordinates. Fictional islands were sought — and sometimes reported as found or even conquered, with varying amounts of circumstantial detail. Shadowy shoals and rocks, revealed by seismic convulsions or shifts in the

seabed, added to the confusion. Until genuine experience transformed it, the image of the Atlantic was strewn with delusive islands, like jewels spilt from a casket.

Febile modern minds go on believing in some, at least, of the non-existent lands. Sightings are still reported of St Brendan's Land of Promise and of the Isle of Brasil, where King Arthur's grave has been putatively located. The last attempt to follow St Brendan's presumed track led the explorer Tim Severin to Newfoundland in 1977. To this day medieval legends are frequently cited in defence of ignorant theories about pre-Columbian discoveries of America.

In his new book, Donald S. Johnson shows a practical



Still chasing clouds

seafarer's distrust of such siren voices. He steers a safe course in his seven short essays on "lands that never were". His pages are full of wonderful characters: the superwoman Marguerite de la Roque, cast away among demons in 1541 as a punishment for fornication; the mysterious Zeno brothers, whose Atlantic navigations of the 1380s reached, the author believes, no further than Iceland; the roguish 17th-century seaman-artist, Thomas Shepherd, who invented an island to give himself a job running it. If some of the best stories are there to be debunked, why should the reader repine? Johnson's book should not be read for instruction: the information in it is always patchy and often misleading. But it makes excellent entertainment for the hammock or the Lido. The author is in the very tradition he traduces, an ancient mariner who can hold us with his glittering eye.

Felipe Fernández-Armesto: *Armesto's Truth: A History will be published next month by Bantam.*

To be Welsh or not to be

Ffion Jenkins

TWENTIETH-CENTURY ANGLO-WELSH POETRY

Edited by Danny Absie
Serena Books, £19.95
ISBN 1 85111 182 5

the answer in this volume is an unequivocal yes. The strength of the verse is impressive, the breadth of views from and on Wales enthralling, and Absie even manages to find a handful of poems that betoken a sense of humour and the gloom of Celtic twilight — amazing!

Absie sets out to bring together a collection of poems from 20th-century Wales, including eight of his own, to represent what is in his view a literary awakening that has been largely ignored across the border. To make his selection, he raids volumes by poets as diverse as Wilfred Owen and Tony Curtis, including the well

known verse of Dylan Thomas, R. S. Thomas and Glyn Jones alongside the perhaps less widely appreciated delights of Harri Webb and Oliver Reynolds. Anyone who doubts that the spirit of poetry is alive, well and

living in a converted chapel in Merthyr Tydfil should spend an hour browsing through this volume.

The prologue offers a collection of critical views on Anglo-Welsh poetry, in which theories and definitions abound. Yes, we can agree that poets from Wales may be conscious of being "members of a defeated nation", to favour the underdog and the off-centre viewpoint, to employ biblical cadences and display an awareness of landscape and community.

These poems, Absie gently suggests, have more in common than obsession with loss and coalpits. There is something in their very fabric, in

their passion for life, in their rhythm that marks them out. You might think that there is nothing Welsh about Wilfred Owen's *Dulce et Decorum Est* or Conrad's *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Horse*, but read them in the context and think again.

Danny Absie uses his Welsh ear to good effect in making his choice, putting together a volume that is more than an anthology. It reads like a history, and kept me turning back to old and new favourites.

A good book can fill a niche you never knew existed. I cannot pretend that I have ever lost much sleep over the need to produce a definitive record of poems by Anglo-Welsh poets of the 20th century, but I can equally say I am glad that such a fine one now exists.



Wright adventurous

Cherenkova, lost somewhere in time and space.

Lambert's undimmed passion for Anita shapes the diary narrative in which he chronicles his encounter with the doomed future of mankind for "Bird" — Charlie Parker, the best friend from whom he stole Anita. Bird will tell the world what has happened. But Bird might settle the score between them by failing to do so, particularly in view of the vividly intimate details recapitulated by Lambert in their shared courtship. The profound sense of doom which hangs over Lambert's tale comes from this anticipated retribution by Bird for his betrayal, as much as from the time-bomb disease he carries in his body, or the catastrophic state of the world he finds in the future.

bered episodes colour his encounter with half-recognised places: remembered feelings sharpen his desire to find and rescue the previous occupant of the time machine, Tania

Timeless love pursued across the Universe

Lisa Jardine

A SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE

By Ronald Wright
Anchor, £9.99
ISBN 1 86230 011 9

he might go back through time with that precious information, to the year of his ex-lover Anita's death from the same mysterious illness, and save her too.

But his journey to the future discovers a world devastated and laid waste by the combined efforts of mankind's selfish pursuit of its creature comforts and power-crazed political movements. A mere 500 years from his own era, humanity has all but wiped itself off the face of the earth, its remnant returned to primitive barbarity, the ruins of its

burnt-out cities a habitation only for marauding animals. By the middle of the 21st century civilisation is only a set of vestigial recollections, half-remembered beliefs and practices garbled by illiterate and history-less savages.

In a sense *A Scientific Romance* is recognisably derivative. Ronald Wright's first novel pays liberal homage to the great classics of time-travel fiction — from Richard Jeffries to H.G. Wells himself. What makes it in the end such a compelling reading is the deft use of the other "romance" of the title, Lambert's unfinished love affair with the enigmatic Egyptologist Anita. In woven deep into the fabric of his time-travel tale, its fragmentary details repeatedly recapitulated as a counterpoint to the ongoing adventure. Remember

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Norman Davies on a man's voyage into his family's past

A home and a nation reclaimed

Radek Sikorski was in Angua when he heard that Communism in his native Poland was collapsing. It was 1989, and he was 26. Earlier he had been in Afghanistan, reporting the war against the Soviet invasion. An Oxford graduate, he had assumed that his exile would be permanent. But now he could go home. With the help of his parents, both architects, he took possession of one of the thousands of old Polish manor houses which had largely been left to rot after their prewar owners were driven out.

The Manor of Chobielin (pronounced Hobby-Ayleen) stands by a river in the lush Polish countryside near the town of Bydgoszcz (Bromberg). It lies in a district west of the Vistula where Polish and German influences always contended. Founded in the 15th century, it was sold in 1791 by a Hulewicz to a Falkenberg, and in 1919 by a von Falkenberg to a Reysowski. After six years in Nazi hands, it was seized in 1945 by the People's Militia. Reysowski had died in Russian captivity; a relative who reappeared in a British Army uniform could not assert a private claim. So on August 12, 1946, the manor was made the property of the Polish State and the land was given to a collective farm. By 1989, vandalised and overgrown, the house was a ruin abandoned by all but a couple of squatters.

Greeted in feudal style as "the young master", Sikorski has restored it with loving devotion. He sees his "Polish House" as a microcosm of the country as a whole — its ancient traditions trampled, its material fabric in a state of dereliction. Rebuilding Chobielin was a patriotic duty. Just as he had fought the Communists with telephoto, word processor and assault rifle, now he would fight their legacy with bricks, mortar and furniture polish.

The story of the manor forms the backdrop to Sikorski's finely observed "intimate history", by focusing on the people connected with one locality, he vividly brings the country's past and present to life in a way that academic studies can never do. *The Polish House* is worth a whole shelf of so-called translatology.

THE POLISH HOUSE
By Radek Sikorski
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 9883 6

This being Poland, the Second World War looms large. There are descriptions of the horrendous German occupation of 1939, and of the Soviet occupation of 1945. Totalitarian evils recur in terrible symmetry. One Reysowski son-in-law rides off to fight the Germans in September 1939, never to be seen again.



Sikorski: the young master

Another, married at Chobielin that same summer, ends up in the mass grave at Katyn, murdered by Soviet troops. One of Sikorski's great-uncles, a priest, joins the large contingent of Catholic clergy sent to Dachau. Another is imprisoned for not doffing his cap to the Hitlerjugend, and is used for perverted Nazi medical experiments. Surviving that, and years of forced labour in the Reich, he serves the post-war Communist Party until banished for slapping a Soviet general. And then there is the disturbing account, preserved in the archives, of a German woman incarcerated in 1945 in the prison at Potulice, which borders Chobielin. Like many Nazi camps, Potulice passed into the hands of sadistic Communist jailers. But the wretched German victim betrays no awareness of her predecessors' suffering. She complains of so-called "martyrs of Auschwitz", who seem to be getting all the sympathy. Sikorski battles against this deplorable tribal tendency, of Germans who ignore the non-

German strands in their legacy and of Poles who suppress the German element in theirs. One only wonders whether the Jewish element has not been underplayed.

Sikorski's own experiences come to the fore in the sections on his boyhood and the Solidarity era, and in a late chapter on his "Hundred Days" as a youthful Deputy Minister of Defence in 1993.

The portrait of a childhood passed under the mildly oppressive absurdities of late Communism is particularly well drawn. It presents all those human details, which Western readers don't otherwise encounter — the censoring of *Koziolek* Materek, a sort of Polish counterpart to Winnie the Pooh; the teacher who wipes her nose on a sock and sincerely believes that postwar Poland was a liberated country; the family holidays to Turkey, which were really bawling expeditions. Bolstered by a deft Catholic Church, the spirits of the young Sikorski and his friends finally break free after witnessing the million-strong reception for a Polish Pope in 1979. "We realised for the first time that we were more numerous than them."

The ministerial episode is convincing in its portrayal of the political fiascos in the post-Solidarity camp, but is tinged with animosity in its savage attack on Walesa. Irony may have been a better weapon here. Yet the issues raised, such as Russia's secret trade in nuclear weapons, are serious. Sikorski can take satisfaction that his initial NATO contacts have borne fruit.

His final assessment of an independent Poland is nicely balanced. He has good reason to regret the strange failure to uncouple the ex-Comrades' gravy train. At the same time, he welcomes the rush of fresh democratic air and the eager young faces that are looking to the future. He writes disarmingly of his inculcation against political seductions — which does not explain fully why he is a parliamentary candidate with excellent prospects in the coming election.

Norman Davies's Europe: A History is published by Oxford University Press, priced £25.

Twilight of the idols

SOMETIMES one gets tired of the word "young" chaperoning the word "poet". Not that the pairing is a wholly spurious one: Ezra Pound set the "lyricage" at between 17 and 21 — "tarnishing young, isn't it? One thinks of such examples as Keats and Chatterton, Rimbaud and Laforgue. There is probably some similarity too between poetry and that other famously youthful avocation, mathematics.

But there does come a time when youth ceases to matter, when one has had enough of "the new rock'n'roll" or the new television comedy and when poems and poets have to proceed in their own merits, without the help of a hand-capper. There is a unique potency about writing in age, of which Thomas Hardy is the great exemplar in English: a poetry of "reality" rather than the imagination, of responsibility not licence, a looking back rather than looking around.

Elaine Feinstein's collection, *Daylight* (Carcanet, £6.95; ISBN 1 8575 291 6) is a case in point. Feinstein, now in her mid-60s, is a regular reviewer for these pages and the author of many novels and plays and

POETRY

books of poems, and the translator and biographer of the great Russian poet Marina Tsvetayeva. She has written a book that seems to get stronger with every reading: vivid and direct and full-on.

The poems are to husband and friends, children and grandchildren: they are compact and plain-spoken. They have a sort of solid thoughtfulness as they recollect the brilliant light of a picnic in the Arctic Circle, a baby granddaughter minded for a few hours, a feeling of renewed closeness as she pushes her husband around Singapore in a wheelchair: the sort of things one needs to have knocked around a number of decades on the planet in order to communicate.

Feinstein has described her poetry as "work of understanding", and this is what is so impressive about it. It is her hard and honest thinking about the people and places she has known, and it is done so plainly and scrupulously that it is always the poem that serves the subject, and not the other way round.

In the Peter Pan world of poetry promotion, Sarah Maguire qualifies — at 40 — as a "young poet". Actually, her poem *Spilt Milk* is one of a very few poems that have stayed with me from first publication: its haunting bringing-together of sex and strangeness and unwellness in a room by a shunting yard was somehow both harrowing and lovely. There was nothing quite as good in the rest of her first book, nor in *The Invisible Mender*, her second (Cape, £7 ISBN 0 224 0423 0).

The main trouble with the poems is a certain relentlessness and heavy-handedness. It is as though Maguire doesn't trust us to understand them. There is something disproportionate about a five-page poem about blocked ears, or an 80-line American townscape that seems to go nowhere.

Lack of tact and economy, though, are the vices of Maguire's virtues: a highly textured and even over-beautiful surface ("Your sax in hock for six weeks"). She is one of those poets for whom ordinary words and phrases won't do: for it to be poetry, she needs a whole new language, call it Lyricese. She imports vocabulary wholesale from botany and geography and music. The best things here are her versions from Tsvetayeva, whose speed and electricity at last get Maguire moving.

MICHAEL HOFMANN

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Glenn Gould at the keyboard: his personality was a blend of genius and madness — but could the intervention of his friends have saved him?

Ivories that tickled his brain

Madness and genius aren't necessarily sides of the same coin. But any roll-call of great pianists must include a suspicion that hammering the ivories six hours a day from a tender age does tend to dislodge essential screws round the old grey matter. Recall the infantile Vladimir Horowitz, the ethereally disengaged Claudio Arrau, the self-destructive John Ogdon, the... well, let's stop with the dead ones before the lawyers get nervous.

Most of all, recall Glenn Gould. A genius? His astonishing 1955 recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* leaves no room for doubt. And mad? He wore gloves, cap and, overcoat, sweater and scarf in scorching midsummer. He stuffed dozens of pills into

himself each day to alleviate non-existent illnesses. He withdrew into a cellar studio at the age of 32, communicating with other human beings for the last 18 years of his life primarily by telephone calls at 3am. He filed a £170,000 lawsuit against Steinway because a piano tuner had allegedly injured him by shaking his hand. He wrote a scholarly dissertation on Petula Clark. Yes, by any reasonable definition, he was bonkers.

All this is well known. But Peter Ostwald, who died before seeing his book published, brings a new angle. Ostwald was a fiddle-playing professor of psychiatry and also a close friend of the pianist, or as close as Gould allowed anybody except his mother to get. Which begs the question: what good are professors of psychia-

Richard Morrison

GLENN GOULD
The Ecstasy and Tragedy of Genius
By Peter F. Ostwald
Norton, £25
ISBN 0 393 04077 1

try if they can't even straighten out their own friends?

Still, Ostwald has written a marvellously detailed book. His precise reconstructions of long conversations he had with Gould some 40 years earlier may defy credibility, but he does offer a gripping portrait of Gould's rocket-like rise and sad, solitary fall — culminating in a gruesome, 1,500-word, clot-by-clot account of the fatal stroke. You don't get that kind of service

from the *New Grove Dictionary of Music*.

Nor do you get the psychiatrist's eye view of the toddler Gould, learning the piano on mummy's knees ("mother, child and piano quickly became a unity"), developing promising Oedipal quirks ("he would sleep with his mother one night, and his father would sleep with her the next"), cultivating his hypochondria, or nurturing his epic portfolio of phobias — about crowds, human contact, balls (as in tennis, I think), bright colours, Philadelphia.

Goodness knows what unspeakable deeds Gould might have perpetrated had he not channelled his perversity into eccentric tempos in Beethoven.

You read this creepy story and wonder why the many "friends" who supplied Ostwald with recollections never

took Gould in hand, gave him a few square meals, flushed his pills down the pan, introduced him to some nice, sensible girlfriends (or boy-friends), and generally managed to ensure that he lived beyond the week of his 50th birthday. Perhaps they were scared of offending this aloof control-freak. Or perhaps they thought that "normalising" Gould would smother his wayward genius.

Either way, the man was allowed to collapse into a vortex of ever more freakish delusions. But isn't that exactly what the fans expected of him — and expect of all geniuses? Music-lovers will always treasure Gould's 90 recordings. But I defy anybody to enjoy them after reading this book without experiencing a queasy unease. It's called guilt.

Religion, revolution and radical chic

Roy Foster

REBELS AND INFORMERS
Stirrings and Irish Independence
By Oliver Knox
John Murray, £20
ISBN 0 7195 553 6

The Irish 18th century used to be presented as a consistent process of misery, bursting into conflagration at the end with the 1798 Rising: a bloody and violent insurrection masterminded by the revolutionary United Irishmen. Nowadays historians are more likely to stress the growth of a prosperous Catholic commercial class, the rapid abandonment of the anti-Catholic Penal Laws, and the apparent success of Reform politics — until the sudden dislocations of the last decade. From about 1793, the expected future vanished: much as it would do after 1914, and for a similar reason — the advent of a great continental war, which changed the priorities of both Irish rulers and Irish nationalists.

The approaching bicentenary will, however, concentrate attention on 1798 and this book is an unashamed attempt to get in on the ground floor. It is urbane, pointed, elegantly written and adopts the confiding and personal tone which went out with *belles-lettres* ("I think that..."). I am inclined to believe... Since the author's ideas are generally sensible and often astute, this title becomes attractive rather than irritating. Whether there is anything very new here is another matter, but that is not the publisher's point.

Knox deals with the 1790s by constructing a kind of group biography. His chosen United Irishmen are the insouciant Francophile barrister Wolfe Tone, the eccentric landowner Hamilton Rowan, the Belfast doctor and versifier Thomas Drennan and the glamorous radical-chic Lord Edward Fitzgerald (Protestants all, and all members of one kind of Irish elite or another); his informers are a more obscure and seedy bunch. The narrative covers the radicalisation of reformers into revolutionaries, against the background of French war, Napoleon's rise, and the ineptitude of Pitt's Government. "French ideas" of secularism and a brotherhood

across the religious divide provide the leitmotif, but Knox is well attuned to the more astute themes of mutual suspicion which pulse beneath the rhetoric of the reformers. His material comes from the wonderful diaries, memoirs and letters of the age, heroically compiled by Victori-



The United Irishmen; contemporary illustration

an editors, with occasional salt added from government archives.

Like other recent popular historians, Knox has discovered the accessibility, colour and richness of 18th-century records, but he contributes a telling ability to disentangle brilliant quotations and build up minor characters — such as Rowan's long-suffering and acerbic wife, trying to keep the family property together during his exile, while he goes spectacularly native in the American colonies. Her letters are an abiding pleasure: "Every captain of a ship that comes from Philadelphia or Wilmington fills this country with accounts of your drawing beer, flour, etc., through the street, which gives fresh food for scandal against poor me... What could, what should have obliged you to run from your house to the factory in a snowstorm, with your bed on a barrow?"

claiming that the 1798 Rising consistently sustained the early reformers' ideals of a secularist, non-sectarian brotherhood of Irishmen, embodied in the shordived Westford republic — rather than Lecky's analysis of a rising deliberately provoked by the excesses of the yeomanry and militia, which was rapidly sectarianised into appalling carnage carried out in the name of rival religions.

While this analysis may be put to reactionary use (as a rationalisation for the disastrous Act of Union), the evidence upon which it rests cannot all be skewed or faked. Knox's book vividly reminds us of the well-attested heroism, high principles, gaiety and courage of the rebels, and of the inspirational historical moment which they lived through. But what a group biography cannot do is tell us how atypical they were, or how distant from their ideas was the human material with which they had to work.

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Heathrow objectors set for noise battle

By Harvey Elliott

OBJECTORS to the proposed £1.6 billion fifth terminal at Heathrow airport are preparing a major assault on the problem of aircraft noise which, they believe, will prove their "clinching argument" at Britain's longest-running public inquiry.

The inquiry began in May 1995 amid hopes that the inspector would have heard all the evidence in little more than a year.

Now, however, even the most optimistic forecast is that it will not finish until mid-1998 and that the inspector will not be ready to hand the completed report to the Government until autumn 1999. Airlines and the airport operator BAA regard the continuing delays with mounting horror while objectors privately believe that the longer it takes, the better.

So far only four out of ten "topics" have been completed. When the inquiry resumed in a hotel near Heathrow this week, the last arguments of "Topic Four: Road Traffic" were being heard before campaigners move on to the contentious issue of noise.

Dermot Cox, chairman of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (Hacan), is convinced that because of the constant roar of jets taking off and landing public opinion will not tolerate any further increase in the use of the airport.

He also insists that the evidence of the BAA is fundamentally flawed and that the Government is beginning to take the side of environmental groups rather than the transport industry.

He said: "We were promised in 1979 when Terminal Four was built that that would be the end of the development at Heathrow and that air traffic movements would be limited to 275,000 a year. But now that has been torn up and there are 425,000 movements a year and 57 million passengers."

He will argue that scientific evidence which shows that few people are disturbed by aircraft noise is wrong and that immediate action must be taken to halt the arrival of around 16 flights every day from soon after 4am.

But he will be challenged by the BAA, which said that it had put forward a "very balanced and environmentally aware plan". It had also proposed that the Government introduce a legally binding noise cap at the airport and denies that there will be more flights.

A Heathrow spokesman said: "The reality is that aircraft are getting bigger and quieter. Whether Hacan chooses to believe us or not, that is a fact. The noise contours are shrinking and fewer people are being affected all the time as new aircraft with quieter engines are introduced. Hacan has an emotional argument, but not a rational one."

Whatever the outcome of the inquiry, if the go-ahead is finally given for Terminal 5, it will be more than two years after BAA claims it is needed and may not be open until 2005. BAA says that the delay is "very bad news" for passengers and for the national economy.

Paris Ritz wins a top hotel award

By David Churchill



The award went ahead in fairness to readers

THE LUXURY Ritz Hotel in Paris, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, was yesterday named continental Europe's top business hotel in a poll of 48,000 business travellers who read *Executive Travel* magazine.

The award, coming so soon after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Mr Al Fayed's son Dodi and amid continuing rows over who was to blame for the accident, was made in London yesterday.

The Savoy in London won the coveted Hotel of the Year award. It is the first time in the poll's 15-year history that an Asian hotel has not taken the major honour.

The Savoy's award, however, has come at an embarrassing time: mice were reported to have been seen in the River Restaurant and running across the hotel's foyer. The Savoy blamed

recent refurbishment work for the problem. There had been suggestion by the organisers that awarding the "Gold Medal" for the top continental hotel to the Ritz in Paris was inappropriate in the circumstances but they decided to go ahead in fairness to the magazine's readers.

The Paris Ritz — which has no connection with its London counterpart — has 142 rooms and 45 luxury suites. Double rooms cost up to £500 a night; the two-bedroom presidential suite costs almost £3,500 a night.

The Ritz has always been the haunt of the rich and famous, including Coco Chanel and Ernest Hemingway. In more recent times the former MP Jonathan Aitken was also caught up in a damaging row over who paid his bill when staying at the Ritz.

Old rivals head Test tours

By Tony Dawe and Ivo Tennant

Old rivalries are being resumed between two of the world's most famous cricketers in the build-up to this week to England's winter cricket tour of the West Indies, which is certain to attract many thousands of travelling supporters.

Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge and Sir Garfield Sobers, who faced each other in 15 Test matches, are leading opposing teams of tour operators in the battle to woo fans to their holiday programmes.

Lord Cowdrey, who as plain Colin Cowdrey played in two England tours to the Caribbean, has been signed up by Caribbours to host its packages incorporating the internationalists in Jamaica and Barbados; Sir Garfield, formerly Gary Sobers, will be promoting Calypso Gold's cricket programme.

Lord Cowdrey says: "I went on 11 overseas tours with England but the West Indies was a real treat because the 1968 tour was the only one in which I captained the team — and we played above ourselves to win the Test series."

"I suppose I should be delighted to be coming up against Gary Sobers again. He was the greatest sportsman I have ever played against in terms of being fair and a gent but he was a daunting opponent. I wouldn't like to take him on at any time."

Lord Cowdrey's role with Caribbours will be to host parties for its clients before and after the Test matches and to be around during the games themselves. Chris Cowdrey, his elder son and one-time England captain, will join him in Jamaica and Graham, his second son, will be with him in Barbados. The brothers will host events at the Antigua

Test. Prices start at £1,630 for nine nights including return flights, a gala dinner and Test match tickets.

"I adore the islands and will thoroughly enjoy being part of this winter's tour but will try and avoid numbing today's supporters with too many memories of the past," Lord Cowdrey adds.

Despite England's defeat at the hands of Australia this summer, at least 10,000 English supporters are expected to combine a Caribbean holiday with watching the cricket this winter, including an influx of 6,000 to Barbados alone.

"I cannot remember a tour when England did not have tremendous support," Sir Garfield said. "The difficulty now is to find tickets for everybody, because requests were coming in several months ago. A great number of Bermudians are also coming to the Barbados Test match, which is in March, and the hotels will hardly have room for everybody."

A role in tourism, which has supplanted sugar as the most important industry in Barbados, was the obvious career for the most famous of all West Indians when his cricketing days were over. Sir Garfield is regarded in his native Barbados — with justification — as the greatest player in the history of the game.

His dignity and sportsmanship put him much in demand to promote the region and he settled on two consultancies: to the Barbados Board of Tourism and to Calypso Gold.

"I come to England regularly to promote Barbados," he says. "More tourists than ever before are coming to the island and the rumour is that we are going to have to find more room to fit them in to the Test ground at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown."



Some 10,000 Britons are likely to combine a Caribbean holiday with this winter's Tests

Sir Garfield will be a host at rum punch parties for groups whose holidays this winter will take in one or more of the five Test matches and five limited-overs internationals.

Calypso Gold is guaranteeing tickets for all the Test matches and one-day internationals as part of its packages, which range from ten-night stays from 1999 per person to a 74-night "Full Toss" tour that takes in seven islands and costs £5,525 per person for a twin room.

The two companies are among a score which will be offering holidays linked to the cricket, including Caribbean Connection, which is arranging a cruise to coincide with the Barbados match, and Sport Abroad, part of Kuoni, which is offering packages to all the matches, also with former internationals acting as hosts.



Colin Cowdrey and Gary Sobers are old adversaries

Britain leads howlers league

TRAVELLERS have come to expect the occasional sign that garbles and abuses the English language in foreign hotels. Harvey Elliott writes. The classics "Please take advantage of the chambermaid" and "Do not use the diving board when the swimming pool is empty" remain great sources of amusement for British tourists.

But the British can be just as cavalier with the use of their own language. It was, after all, officials of a British district hospital who put up the sign "Guard Dogs Operating". It was a British manufacturer which sold hairdryers with the label "Warning: Never use while sleeping". And it was teachers at a British school who pinned a notice in their staff room reading: "If you think you've got a problem, you should see the head".

Dozens of similar notices have been



collected by publishers Michael O'Mara, who admit the "author", John Jerrome, is fictitious. And among all the foreign howlers, the British ones are invariably the funniest. A boarding house told guests: "Please do not turn on TV except in

use;" a video store suggested "Why not rent out a movie for a dull evening?" a factory outlet was "Closing down, thanks to all our customers."

A community centre thoughtlessly put up the notice: "Visitors with reading difficulties should proceed to front desk for information", while a notice in a shop window pleaded "Home wanted for friendly Labrador. Will eat anything — loves children." A hotel safety officer insisted: "All fire extinguishers must be examined at least ten days before any fire"; and a recruitment agency requested that "Applicants should have some knowledge of office work and ability to speak would be an advantage."

● Please Take Advantage of the Chambermaid and Other Silly Signs (Michael O'Mara Books, £3.99)

Disney expands kingdom

DISNEY yesterday revealed details of its plans to open the world's largest theme park, the \$2 billion, 500-acre Animal Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, as it launched a marketing drive to capture a slice of the 1998 holiday market. David Churchill writes.

"We have brought together all our expertise built up over more than 40 years along with the latest technology to offer our most interesting experience yet," says Bob Lamb, Disney's vice-president in charge of the new theme park.

The Animal Kingdom, five times the size of Disney's signature park, features the 14-storey Tree of Life as its centrepiece. It will also house a combination of audio-animatronic and real-life animals.

The park will be divided into three main areas featuring real, mythical and extinct animals. Live animals include giraffes, zebras, lions and elephants, and Disney plans to take guests around its habitat on a safari-style ride. Disney is sensitive to criticism about opening what amounts to a zoo-style theme park, emphasising that the vast majority of live animals would have been born in zoological parks. Others will be orphans rescued from endangered habitats.

Disney believes that with four major theme parks on its property, along with three water parks and an expanded night-time leisure complex, it will maintain its dominance as America's top tourist destination. But in 1999 it will face a new challenge from the Universal Studios theme park, also in Orlando, which is doubling its size in a \$3 billion expansion plan.

Animal Kingdom holidays are available in the latest brochures from Thomson, Virgin Holidays and other Florida specialists.



Memories are not made of this

The bandwagon campaign to rename Heathrow airport "Princess Diana International", is gathering pace as politicians clamour aboard.

And at first sight it does seem a fitting tribute. She was a regular user of Heathrow. It is dynamic, fast-moving and vibrant, provides the first impression of Britain and plays a central role in the economic and social fabric of the country.

The naming of airports after the great and the good probably began in 1947 when New York's LaGuardia airport was named after the Mayor who built it in the 1930s — Fiorello LaGuardia. It was followed by Chicago's O'Hare, after the Second World War aviation hero Lieutenant Commander Edward O'Hare, then Orange County became John Wayne airport.

In many parts of the developing world, dignitaries were immortalised in the names of airports from Jan Smuts in Johannesburg to Michael Manley in Kingston, Jamaica. In Israel, Tel Aviv airport changed its name from Lod to Ben Gurion after the politician; Washington became known as John Foster Dulles; Munich became Franz-Josef Strauss airport after the Bavarian leader; Toronto the Lester B. Pearson after the city's Nobel prizewinner and Prime Minister. The Italians chose historical names such as Marco Polo for Venice, Marconi for Bologna and Leonardo da Vinci in Rome.

About 50 major airports have been renamed with probably the best known being John F. Kennedy in New York and Charles de Gaulle in Paris. But there are powerful arguments against a change of name for Heathrow.

Britain has always named its airports after places, many of which have

existed for hundreds of years. Heathrow comes from the hamlet of Hitherow, which first appeared on maps in 1749.

Now, as we report on this page, the seemingly endless inquiry into the building of a fifth terminal at Heathrow has shown just how unpopular it is with many of those who live — and try to sleep — near by.

There are also growing demands for Heathrow to raise its landing charges to such a level that the insatiable demand for slots is choked off. BAA, the airport operator, is now forced by law to lower its prices by 3 per cent below the rate of

inflation for each of the next five years, thereby fuelling that demand.

As a result, Heathrow is becoming overcrowded and potentially dangerous. Already other airports and airlines are attempting to cash in on the inevitable congestion. Air France placed advertisements this week directed at passengers from the regions. "Why not consider using Paris Charles de Gaulle 2, to connect with ongoing flights to European or long-haul destinations?" it suggests. And Air UK, which has been taken over by the Dutch airline KLM, plans a drive to take more British travellers via Amsterdam.

So far the public has been prepared to ignore the departure tax of £5 for a flight within Europe and £10 for long-haul. But there could be an outcry when this is doubled in November.

There are many such troubles ahead for Heathrow, and its future as the hub of Britain's, let alone Europe's, international air transport system could be at stake.

Do we really want to link the name and the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, to all this?

SATURDAY TRAVEL

New year on the island of Nevis
Cycling across India
Checking out travel on the Web
To Italy with a baby
Home travel: Cardiff
Plus Jill Crawshaw's Travel Tips

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Palin in the Pacific



MICHAEL PALIN, the actor, comedian and ardent adventurer, is the star speaker at *The Times/Dillons Forum* on Thursday, September 18, at the Westminster Hall, London.

For his latest BBC TV series, Palin and his team travelled through the amazing lands bordering the Pacific, and his illustrated

talk presents the highs and lows of this epic journey. Admission price for the forum, which starts at 7.30pm, is £10 (concessions £7.50), including £2 off Palin's book, *Full Circle* (BBC Books, £19.99).

Please send me tickets at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for *The Times/Dillons Michael Palin Forum* on Thursday, September 18, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1

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Saga offers free drinks

HOLIDAYMAKERS who have passed their 50th birthday can drink as much as they like in the bar of a hotel in Bournemouth and another in Torquay, Harvey Elliott writes.

Faced with a decline in British seaside holidays, Saga Holidays believes that a free bar could spur a revival of interest, especially among older people who both like a drink and who like to know exactly what their holiday will cost.

"We had to use some gentle persuasion to make hoteliers understand that it was not a recipe for drunken binges," says Saga's chairman, Roger Lamb.

"Our customers are well behaved, responsible and mature, and while they might tend to have more to drink at first than they normally would, they soon settle down."

But Martin Elson, the owner of the 23-room Meadowfoot Bay in Torquay, admits that if he has miscalculated the holidaymakers' alcohol tolerance and thirst he could face severe financial problems. "I would

be concerned if the guests were youngsters," he says, "but I don't think the average Saga holidaymaker is going to drink too much."

Studies have revealed that Saga clients on all-inclusive holidays in mainland Europe spend an average of £2 a day each on alcohol which, even if the cost is doubled in this country, is still not enough to cause problems for the Meadowfoot and the Courtlands Hotel in Bournemouth, which is offering a similar deal.

"The experiment, which will be expanded if it proves a success, will not encourage what some people still refer to as 'Saga louts', a term which really upsets our clients," says Mr De Haan.

A "free drink" week in the Meadowfoot Bay will cost from £289 for Saga clients from next April, and a similar seven-night package at the Courtlands in Bournemouth will be from £319.

There are no discounts for teetotallers. "If they don't drink, they are on the wrong kind of holiday," says Mr De Haan.

A taste of adventure on world race yachts

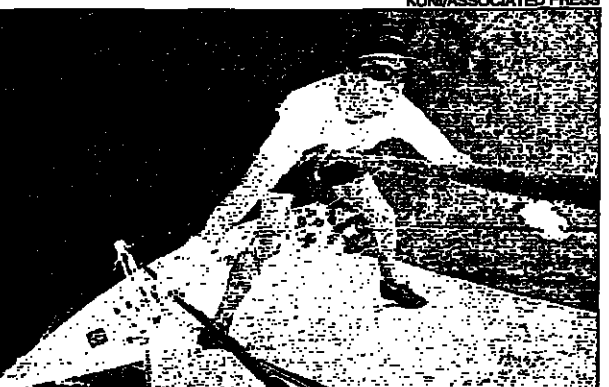
By Ronald Grizzle

THE YACHTS that took part in the round-the-world yacht race this summer are now being offered to holidaymakers for seagoing adventures.

The yachts of the BT Global Challenge 1996-97 finished their nine-month, 30,000-mile voyage to a triumphant welcome in July. From the end of this month, these powerful 67ft racing yachts are being used for Challenge Adventure Sailing (CAS) holidays, set up by Sir Chay Blyth, who crossed the North Atlantic in a rowing boat in 1966 and was knighted this year for services to sailing.

Sir Chay, the driving force behind "the world's toughest yacht race", believes in making sailing available to everyone. Now novices, sailing beside seasoned yachtsmen, can venture into some of the world's spectacular locations.

The length of CAS adventure voyages varies from five nights on the Fastnet Challenge to 40 nights on the trip to Rio de Janeiro, and also from Punta Arenas round Cape



Roped in: Will Stephens in the BT Global Challenge race

Horn and across the South Atlantic to Cape Town. Gentler cruising holidays range from six-night trips in the Caribbean to six or 18-night adventures to Norway and north of the Arctic Circle. Prices range from £240 for a three-night trip from London to Edinburgh, to £2,750 for a 42-night transatlantic voyage from the UK to Chile, a route that mirrors the race. Hayley Newbury of CAS holidays says: "We can accom-

modate up to 12 guests on each yacht together with a skipper and mate. We mix complete beginners with people with various sailing skills. Everyone is given something to do. "For anyone wishing to go on one of our longer trips, we offer a free five-night Fastnet taster, with expert guidance and instruction from a world-class skipper, to let them experience the safety and security of our yachts."

● CAS (01579 348387)

FOOTBALL

Roberts tells Rangers to think of England

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PETER DONALD, the secretary of the Bell's Scottish League, yesterday ruled out rearranging Coca-Cola Cup ties to avoid clashing with international commitments.

Rangers were without four leading players, who were away with their countries, as they lost a quarter-final 1-0 to Dundee United after extra time on Tuesday.

Paul Gascoigne, of England, Brian Laudrup, of Denmark, and Jonas Thern and Joachim Björklund, of Sweden, were on international duty last night. Their World Cup call-ups forced them out of a defeat that denied Rangers the chance of a domestic treble.

This prompted criticism of a competition that offers no European place for the winner. But Donald said: "We are dictated to by circumstances when it comes to possible rescheduling of Coca-Cola Cup matches. There is nothing like the flexibility we have regarding league matches, which we can move."

"The problem is that the games have to be played by November. If we left it until December, the weather might intervene. If we waited until February, we would be clashing with the opening rounds of the Scottish Cup."

"It is not a case that we are unaware of internationals or European games — there are just too many of them played. With the further possibility of Scotland being involved in a [World Cup] play-off, this week was the only one available for the trophy."

After the Rangers defeat, Graham Roberts, once a celebrated defender at Ibrox, yesterday urged the club to turn its back on a new look Scottish League and join the FA Cup Premiership. He blamed the Coca-Cola Cup elimination and the failure in the Champions' League against IFK Göteborg on the lack of true competition for Rangers in Scotland.

"Rangers need to get out of a Scottish league and into a better one — namely the Premiership," Roberts said. "If they are brave enough to do that, it will make them bigger and better. I don't see that they have any option."

"With respect to the other sides in Scotland, the new league structure promised offers no real changes. There will still be no one to challenge them — and I'm afraid I include Celtic in that."

"They have got the support but are badly short of players. They should have spent more in the summer. Until Celtic start buying, there will be a gulf even between the two Glasgow clubs, never mind the rest. If you consider it, Celtic have sold their three best players in Paolo Di Canio, Pierre van Hooijdonk and Jorge Cadete."

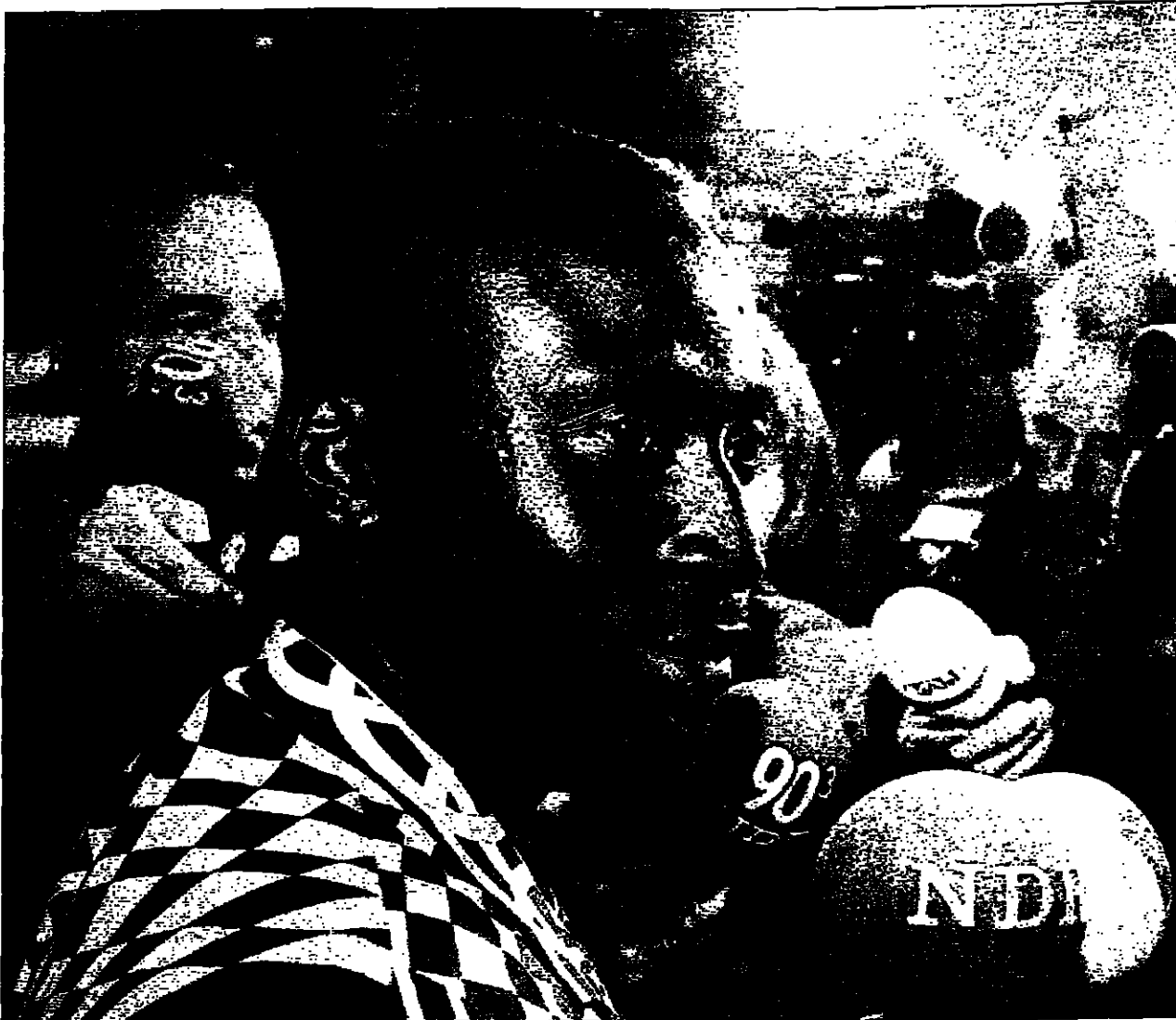
Roberts, now managing Yeovil in the GM Vauxhall Conference, said he was not at the time of expectation since his own time at Ibrox.

"In the late 80s, I think everyone in football knew how big a club Rangers were and what could be achieved," he said. "I now feel Rangers are up there with Manchester United — indeed, probably among the largest-scale clubs in the world."

"But there is a difference on the playing side — at Rangers, the team can cruise through most of their domestic games. All of a sudden, they are asked to compete with the best in Europe and they're unprepared."

"When I arrived, Graeme Souness was looking to build a team to win in every competition, but there are different pressures now. The domestic success we had was good enough considering the disappointments of before."

But Roberts feels that the Coca-Cola Cup defeat after Gary McSwegan's superb 90th-minute volley must be put in perspective. "The fact they were without four internationals because of World Cup duty says how insignificant the Coca-Cola Cup is," he said. "If the trophy really mattered, they would reschedule international ties."



Yeboah arrives at Hamburg airport yesterday for talks aimed at completing his transfer from Leeds United

Hayward replaces his son at Wolves Tax problems may halt Yeboah deal

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SIR Jack Hayward, the owner of Wolverhampton Wanderers, has carried out his threat to take a more hands-on role at the National League first division club by taking over as chairman from his son, Jonathan.

Sir Jack appeared to criticise his son and Mark McGhee, the manager, at the end of last season, when he referred to a "sloppily-run club" and how they had tried to persuade him to spend more money on new players.

Jonathan Hayward becomes deputy chairman while Sir Jack's oldest son, Rick, also becomes a director. Wolverhampton-born Sir Jack, 74, will continue as club president and will still be based in the Bahamas, but will travel to England regularly to attend board meetings.

Other changes to the board see the appointment of Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, the club public relations executive and former England women's cricket captain, and the departure of Nic Stones, who has resigned his seat.

Sir Jack said: "Since buying Wolves in May, 1990, I have not taken a seat on the board. I think now is the time for me to increase my involvement in the club and also the involvement of my family."

Jonathan Hayward said: "Since the end of last season, Sir Jack has made it clear that he wants to take a more active role in the club's affairs. Consequently, he has decided to join the board of directors and I am very happy to stand aside to allow him to become chairman."

"We hope his business expertise will be of great benefit to the club in the coming years. I will take on the position of deputy chairman and continue to devote all my energies to helping steer the club towards the Premiership."

Wolves, who are close to appointing a chief executive, are also set to be floated on the Stock Market later this season. They are seeking to raise around £15 million with the sale of up to half of Sir Jack's 100 per cent shareholding.

TONY YEBOAH, the unsettled Leeds United forward, was in negotiations with SV Hamburg last night in an attempt to resurrect his flagging career. The Ghana international's proposed move to the Bundesliga is in the balance because it is thought that he owes DM1,000,000 (about £325,000) from his previous spell in Germany, with Eintracht Frankfurt.

Yeboah flew to Hamburg to meet Joachim Leukel, his German adviser, and representatives of the club in a bid to reach a solution. Bernd Wehmeyer, the SV Hamburg manager, said: "We will hold talks with him this evening. There are a number of questions which need to be discussed and answered by his tax adviser before the move can go ahead. At the moment it is fifty-fifty whether he will join us."

"It is not clear whether Yeboah has to pay this money or whether his old club have to pay. These are the problems surrounding this transfer."

However, another Hamburg official confirmed that the club would not pay the money owed by Yeboah to the German tax authorities. "If we cannot find a solution then he won't join Hamburg," he said. "But the club won't pay the money. That is up to him."

George Graham, the Leeds manager, said: "Hamburg knew about these problems from the outset and so did we. As I understand it, Hamburg were going to take care of the money. Tony allegedly owes the tax authorities in Germany."

Yeboah's fitness could also prove to be a problem. He has not trained properly since the end of last season after a series of disputes with Graham.

Tomas Brodin, Yeboah's fellow Eland Road outcast, could also soon be on his way out of the club. His agent, John Smith, is hoping to complete a deal within the next few days.

Smith said: "I have been talking to a number of people. It's a question of getting one of them to bite someone over the next few days."

FOOTBALL RESULTS

World Cup European qualifying group nine

ALBANIA (0) 1 N IRELAND (0) 0

Hull 0

(in Zurich)

OTHER MATCH: Group two: Georgia 0

Italy 0 (in Tbilisi)

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Slovenia 1, Denmark 0 (in Ljubljana)

Kosovo 0, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (in Sarajevo)

Group two: Georgia 0, Italy 0 (in Tbilisi)

Group three: Norway 4, Switzerland 1 (in Drammen)

Group four: Sweden 5, Latvia 3 (in Entroping)

Group seven: San Marino 1, Turkey 4 (in San Marino)

Group eight: Romania 4, Iceland 0 (in Bucharest)

Group nine: Germany 7, Armenia 0 (in Solingen)

Tuesday's late results

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division:

Huddersfield 0, Birmingham 1, Port Vale 2

Stockport 1, Second division: Bristol Rovers 2

Walsley 0, Fulham 2, Plymouth 0, Grimsby 0

York 0, Northampton 1, Luton 0, Colchester 1

Preston 0, Third division: Darlington 1, Swindon 2, Exeter 1, Cardiff 1, Shrewsbury 1

Rochester 0

VALLEY LEAGUE: Cheltenham 1, Leek 1

Dover 1, Yeovil 1, Havant 2

Farnborough 1, Victoria 1, Woking 1

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-finals:

Dundee United 1, Hearts 0, Dundee 1, Celtic 1

Bell's Scottish League: Third division:

Aberdeen 1, Dundee 0, Dundee United 1, Celtic 1

UNBORN LEAGUE: Premier division:

Aberdeen 1, Dundee 0, Dundee United 1, Celtic 1

Leigh 1, Barrow 2, Accrington Stanley 0, Blyth Spartans 0

Lancaster 1, Colwyn Bay 3, Chorley 3

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division:

Dundee United 1, Hearts 0, Dundee 1, Celtic 1

Aberdeen 1, Dundee 0, Dundee United 1, Celtic 1

AVON INSURANCE CONFEDERATION: First division:

West Ham 1, Watford 1

Hellenic League: Barbary 0, North Walsham 1

North Walsham 1, North Walsham 1

NORTH WEST COUNTRIES LEAGUE: First division:

Aberdeen 1, Dundee 0, Dundee United 1, Celtic 1

Hastings 1, Maidstone 1, Dover 1, Dover 1

FA HARP LAGER NATIONAL CUP: Play-off:

Galway 1, 0 Home Farm

DUTCH LEAGUE: Groningen 4, NEC Nijmegen 0

Roda JC Kerkrade 0, Vitesse 2

EUROPEAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round:

England 0, Yugoslavia 0

Czech Republic 0, Slovakia 0

FINLANDIA: First division:

Helsingfors 1, Jyväskylä 0

Jyväskylä 0, Jyväskylä 0

JYVSKYLÄ LEAGUE: First division:

Helsingfors 1, Jyväskylä 0

Jyväskylä 0, Jyväskylä 0

JYVSKYLÄ LEAGUE: First division:

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JYVSKYLÄ LEAGUE: First division:

Helsingfors 1, Jyväskylä 0

Jyväskylä 0, Jyväskylä 0

CRICKET: LEGAL WRANGLE PROVIDES UNSETTLING BACKGROUND TO KEY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Audacious Gough loosens Kent's grip

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss; Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 233 runs behind Yorkshire)

FOR Yorkshire, this was both the best and worst of days. Hopes of a first championship title since 1968 were sustained by spirited batting against the leaders, Kent, and almost 4,000 were here to watch. Off the field, however, the club was in a ferment of resentment against the style and timing of the latest attempt to prevent them leaving Headingley.

Paul Caddick, chairman of the company that owns the ground, has strenuously like confetti among past and present officers of the club, a tactic believed here to be specifically designed to sabotage the biggest match many of the present team can have played.

The modern players are rightly attracted by Yorkshire's plans to create their own base near Wakefield and their vibrant cricket here eloquently supported their employers. A greenish patch of no great pace offered early movement, but the Kent seam bowlers seldom exploited it effectively and Yorkshire overcame a mid-innings decline to 137 for six to reach a competitive 312.

If this was principally due to the Australian, Darren Lehmann, who made a compelling 87, there was also some resolute cricket from the lower order. Darren Gough scored his first half-century of the season, in his first championship game for six weeks, and Chris Silverwood occupied 28 overs for 31.

The quality of cricket through the day was erratic — there were too many poor shots played and too many wide half-volleys bowled.

It was never less than entertaining, though, not least when Kent's turn came to bat, when Ed Smith reiterated his pedigree. Before the close, though, Smith had been taken at gully during a splendid



Lehmann, Yorkshire's Australian batsman, sweeps Strang, the Kent leg spinner, for four to reach his half-century at Headingley yesterday

spell of swing bowling by Silverwood.

Remarkably, Kent have not won a championship match at Headingley since the war and Yorkshire, choosing to bat, set off as if convinced the sequence would continue. Igglesden, a late replacement after McCague and Phillips were both ruled unfit, did win an early leg-before decision to dismiss McGrath but Headley was withdrawn after five overs costing 33.

If Yorkshire do fail to take the title — and the 19 points by

which they now trail Kent is a massive shortfall — it will not be for lack of positive cricket. Byas, the captain, set the urgent tone, driving fluently and dominating a stand of 76 in 21 overs with Vaughan.

His 50 came from only 60 balls and he took with particular relish to Ealham until playing round a full-length ball. By then, Vaughan had also departed, caught behind off an outswinger from Fleming.

In four overs after lunch the gains of the second-wicket pair

were quickly frittered away. White, barely able to reach a short, wide one from Igglesden, toe-ended a catch to Marsh and Parker, negligent of foot movement, was leg-before to the next ball. When Blakey squeezed a sharp catch to Fulton, at short-leg, Gough came blinking into the autumn sunshine as if emerging from hibernation.

Only minutes earlier, he had strolled into the press box and offered his view that the pitch was behaving well. On seeing raised eyebrows, he

said he had not been watching, anyway. Gough never has been a viewer, simply a doer and he now showed sublime self-belief, essaying an outrageous air shot at his first ball before gathering runs in eccentric, unguarded areas.

There were some powerful, authentic blows, too, as he matched the assured Lehmann in a stand worth 117 in just 19 overs. This was resourceful cricket but Kent matched it. Ealham's bowling may look bland but it snares the unsuspecting and now it

accounted for both partners. Gough losing his off stump as he cut at a straight one and Lehmann unluckily caught behind down the leg side.

It was another 20 overs before the innings closed. Headley, so fierce against Gloucestershire last week, was impotent as this pitch eased and Strang was underused. Ealham had to come back once more to dislodge Silverwood, who by then had earned the biggest cheer of the day by securing a third batting point.

Surrey descend into depths of incompetence

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (first day of four: Lancashire won toss; Lancashire have scored 459 for four wickets against Surrey)

IN 1990, the year of the bat, Lancashire made the highest total in the club's history, 863, against Surrey at the Oval. For much of yesterday, as they paddled along at four runs an over without ever straining for effect, a score of 864 seemed a reasonable proposition. Who knows? Unless Surrey buck up their ideas this morning they may still get there.

Before one makes any summary of Lancashire's batting on a flat pitch, it is necessary to comment on Surrey's bowling. Until Amin turned one past Crawley's bat, in the 89th over of the innings, bowling him out good and proper, it was difficult to recall many balls that landed where they should have done. It was a crumbly performance, about as bad as it is possible to see in the professional game.

Once again, the thought arose: if this is really the best a county side can do, then how can anybody expect this country to produce cricketers to overcome Australia? So far as Surrey were concerned, this is simply a fixture to be honoured. "We can't win the championship," they seemed to be saying, "but we'll kindly turn a team out."

They lacked Saqlain, the off spinner, who has rejoined his Pakistan team-mates for a daff competition in Toronto. Thorpe was rested and Lewis, who has a hip injury, was unavailable. After lunch they lost Bicknell to a knee strain.

The excuses end there. Nothing, except incompetence, could account for the wretched bowling of Salisbury and Ben Hollis. You had to cover your eyes when Salisbury was on. It was embarrassing. Talk about amateur hour! Hollis minor went for 28 in eight balls, separated by a session of play, as Atherton pulled him for two sixes and

repeatedly drove him through mid-wicket. Atherton made 149 out of 259, Lancashire's record opening stand against Surrey, when he ticked a glance and Stewart held a brilliant diving catch.

Atherton played more freely than he has done all year, assisted by the fifth the bowlers were keen to put in his half. The other century-maker was young Nathan Wood, whose 155 was his first hundred in first-class cricket. It



Atherton: feasted on the Surrey bowlers' offerings

took the introduction of a tenth bowler, Butcher, to dislodge him ten minutes before the close.

It would be nice to report that Wood, the left-handed son of Barry, is the sort of batsman who empties bars. It would be truthful to say he is a limited strokeplayer who enjoyed three moments of fortune, being dropped on 41 and 81 and surviving a stumping chance on 80.

Crawley flickered for a while, and Fairbrother heaved a few blows in the last hour. Hollis' major did not distinguish himself greatly in the field. After bowling a clumsy bounce at Crawley he bickered at the batsman like somebody who has lost his place in the soup queue. His field placings were a bit odd, too. Never mind. When he is the England captain we will beat everybody out of sight.

Invaluable innings is just the job for Ripley

BY BARNEY SPENDER

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 310 for seven wickets against Leicestershire)

WHILE many players on the county circuit may be chewing their fingernails wondering whether their contracts will be renewed, David Ripley, the Northamptonshire wicketkeeper and one of nine players on the staff whose future service is under review, should be able to relax after rescuing his colleagues from the deepest mire yesterday.

Coming to the crease three overs before lunch with Northamptonshire totalling 105 for five, he shared a fine sixth-wicket partnership of 155 with Penberthy and then, after the Cornishman had departed for 65, went on to reach 92 before edging a short ball from Ormond to Nixon ten minutes before the close.

That Ripley felt eight runs short of the seventh century of his career, however, should not deflect the personnel department because, by then, he had passed fifty for the fifth time this season and showed what a valuable and determined cricketer he is.

The top order had wasted the chance given them by Bailey's luck with the coin through a mixture of ill fortune and poor batting. Montgomerie and Fordham set off at a cracking pace but when Brimston, the left-arm spinner, found some early turn to hit Montgomerie's off stump, the innings began to self-destruct.

Bailey and Sales appeared to have things under control as they added 48, but they fell in successive overs to leave Penberthy and Ripley facing a tough task. They battled all the way through the afternoon session, with Penberthy, whose nine previous championship innings had produced just one score over 14, playing some delightful drives through the covers but, otherwise, it was attritional stuff.

After tea, they both opened up, raising the hundred partnership and then their individual fifties in quick succession. Maddy made the breakthrough before Ormond took the new ball and ended Ripley's resistance, which had lasted 246 balls and included 12 fours.

Smith relives batting glories

BY IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Warwickshire won toss; Warwickshire have scored 407 for seven wickets against Gloucestershire)

EIGHT years ago, Neil Smith, going in as nightwatchman, made the first century of his career — 161 against Yorkshire. The next day, he won the NatWest final for Warwickshire with a six in the last over.

Yesterday, he scored his second century — and it was worth watching. Smith and Dougie Brown put on an unbeaten 181 against a Gloucestershire side that no longer has a realistic chance of winning the county championship. Warwickshire will collect £10,000 in prize-money from Britannic Assurance, the sponsors, if they finish in their present position of fifth, rising to £32,000 if, as is possible, they are runners-up. They will decide after this match whether to accede to a request by Dr Ali Bacher, the chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, that Allan Donald, the fast bowler, should return in good time for their tour to Pakistan.

Gloucestershire, who are five points ahead of Warwickshire, announced yesterday that Courtney Walsh, of West Indies, would return in place of the Australian Shaun Young as their overseas professional next year.

They had seven batsmen out for 226 yesterday before Smith started to strike the ball with

the utmost vigour. At one stage, Lewis had taken four for 28 while the other Smith, Mike, took his 76th wicket of the season, which is more than anybody else.

There were other excellent innings. Hemp, admittedly dropped twice, reached a half-century off 53 balls, including ten fours and a pull for six off Lewis. He has not had a bad season but looks, as he did on occasion for Glamorgan, as if he should be scoring more runs than he does. It was a surprise when he was caught at first slip.

Hemp hit one more four in his innings of 66. He added 130 for the second wicket with Knight, whose 71 was full of assured drives. He, too, struck 11 fours before flicking Mike Smith to Hewson, positioned specifically between mid-wicket and square leg.

Smith also had Ostler caught at the wicket, pushing forward, and Piper and Giles were dismissed aiming to hit Lewis through mid-wicket and square leg respectively. Neil Smith, however, found a partner in Brown who, despite a meagre batting average during the past two seasons, is still thought of here as an all-rounder.

His innings of 74 was his best score of the season. His partnership with Smith surpassed Warwickshire's record for the eighth wicket against Gloucestershire, achieved 60 years ago. Smith struck 25 fours and a six in his unbeaten 145.

For a while, they got by on spares, inflated by the euphoria of the extraordinary winter meeting that swept a new chairman, Robin Marlar, a new chief executive, Tony Pigott, and a new committee

England likely to benefit from Headley's Jamaican heritage

WHATEVER else may be changing within cricket, fraternisation among fast bowlers remains constant. When, at the start of England's tour of West Indies, Dean Headley arrives in Jamaica, where his grandfather achieved legendary status, he will not lack for advice from the populus. Indeed, at the instigation of David Lloyd, he is already receiving it from the island's greatest fast bowler.

Michael Holding has been a friend of the England coach since they were together in the Lancashire side of 1981. "He was the nicest man I played with — and the most terrifying opponent," Lloyd said. "I asked him to have a chat with Dean before the final Test, and he was keen to do so, anyway."

Holding, who is now a television commentator, was one of the finest fast bowlers to play for West Indies. He knew George Headley, "The black Bradman" and played with Dean's father, Ron, for Jamaica. He prefers imparting advice off the field to coaching in the nets and had a discussion with Dean over dinner.

That is not the end of it. The most fearsome of all West Indies fast bowlers has been in London this summer and feels that he can help Devon Malcolm — whose roots are also in Jamaica. Charlie Griffith, now a JP and sales manager for the Barbados Lumber Company, feels he can resolve some technical imperfections. "I would like to give him some coaching on a one-to-one basis," he said.



All for nothing

Willie Boulter, secretary of the Hong Kong section of Stragglers of Asia, made a 14,000-mile round trip to play in his club's cricket week at Pangbourne College, in Berkshire. He will not readily forget it. He had four innings — against Sussex Martlets, Old Westminsters, Royal Marines and Gloucestershire Gypsies — and each time was out first ball. One fixture remained for him to break his duck. Alas, this was rained off.

Second innings

Imran Khan, who came to London with his wife for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and who is having to contend with a paternity suit brought by Sita White, is about to face another legal battle. The Court of Appeal will be deciding soon whether there is to be a retrial of the case brought against him last year by Ian Botham and Allan Lamb, at the core of which were allegations about class, upbringing and education.

"If they succeed in their appeal, then a retrial will take place next year, by when most people will have forgotten all the details," Howard Cohen, Imran's solicitor, said. "We are very confident that it will not happen, but, if it does, the gloves will be off even more than before. We have spent a lot of time over this and will present our defence a little differently from last year. There is one very sensitive area we will be expanding on."

Edey's revolt

Roy Edey, a former solicitor's clerk, has been undertaking battles in court all his life. He once won the right in the High Court to prosecute Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, then the chairman of Tesco, claiming that he should be jailed over Sunday trading.

He took on Eric Cantona over his kung-fu kick and has brought a motion against the Test and County Cricket Board, as it was, over coloured clothing, which he abhors.

Now he is taking on MacLaurin again. Edey is petitioning the members of all first-class counties to bring resolutions forcing the England and Wales Cricket Board to discuss its proposed changes with them.

"We need an opportunity to debate alterations to the game," he said. "It seems to me ridiculous that, at a stroke, the second cup competition should disappear. I need the support of the membership of more than half the county clubs."

Catch question

News that a cricket stadium is to be built on Corfu, where *Kriket* has been played since 1835, has been greeted with delight and some astonishment. Various attempts to improve the standard of the enthusiastic Corfiots have not always proved successful down the years. The *Cricketer* owned a taverna near the old ground on the esplanade and its proprietor, Ben Brocklehurst, arranged for nets to be sent out from England. On his next visit, he found they had been given to the island's fishermen.

FATHER TIMES

Caddick left with little to show for his labours

BY DEREK HODGSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Durham won toss; Somerset, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 155 runs behind Durham)

ON Wearside, on a heated day for September, Andrew Caddick went into training for the West Indies this winter: 22 overs for 63 runs and one wicket. The England selectors will be grateful that Somerset have only one more championship match.

As Alec Belder would say that 22 overs in 80 degrees was a minimal requirement in his day, and so it was, but fast bowlers of the Belder-Trueman era were less prone to injury and "burn-out" and had fewer doctors, physiotherapists and psychiatrists to tell them when they were ill, injured or just slightly potty.

Caddick deserved better reward. At 10.30, with dew on the grass, he won both lateral and vertical movement and could have lunched on five wickets. All day he was able to make the odd ball lift unexpectedly and spikily, which is how Martin Speight was forced to retire twice, with a suspected broken finger at 117 for three and again at 185 for six after being hit again.

As the air warmed and the ball aged, Caddick became less effective, but his bowling was never less than Test class, never allowing the batsmen to relax or take root. Mushtaq, equally, could have taken five wickets, his leg breaks turning too much and too quickly, and when, as often, Durham's batsmen failed to pick his googly or top-spinner, the ball would shave the stumps.

The man to benefit most from such nervous play was Graham Rose, who was accurate and diligent. Of Durham's batting, John Morris looked a different class. His 79 was made off 128 balls, out of 146 for three, and included a straight six off Mustaq.

Stewart Hutton was unlucky to play on. Boon was caught down the leg side off his glove and Robin Weston led the rearguard, taking 69 balls to score a doughty 29 that ended sadly, trapped when trying to sweep an experimental delivery by Peter Bowler. What was a slowish pitch helping the seam bowlers to surface into a good batting surface.

Sussex struggling to sustain the revolutionary force

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four: Sussex won toss; Hampshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 71 runs ahead of Sussex)

SUSSEX set themselves three modest targets at the start of the season. The first was that they would always try. The second was that, in the modern jargon, the wheels would not come off. The third was that all their young players would be better at the end than they were at the beginning.

Only on one count have they been successful. No one can say that they have not tried. Trying alone, however, is not enough in a champion-

ship that is far more competitive than many imagined. Yesterday it was not enough, even against Hampshire, who are among the weaker brethren themselves.

The wheels started to come off a long time ago. As long ago as last winter, in fact, when, for one reason or another, six senior players — Ed Giddins, Jamie Hall, Danny Law, Ian Salisbury, Martin Speight and Alan Wells — left the club.

For a while, they got by on spares, inflated by the euphoria of the extraordinary winter meeting that swept a new chairman, Robin Marlar, a new chief executive, Tony Pigott, and a new committee

Pat Gibson on the trials and tribulations that have overtaken a county in strife

into power, but a nasty accident was always just around the corner.

The crunch came towards the end of June. Sussex were bowled out for 54 and 67 by Glamorgan at Swansea in a match that lasted only a day and a half. It was the start of a sequence that has seen them lose six of their seven subsequent matches, three by an innings, two by nine wickets and one by 160 runs.

The only relief came at Eastbourne when they beat Leicestershire by 35 runs in a

rain-shortened game of forfeits and in the NatWest Trophy, which brought them sensational victories over Lancashire and Derbyshire before Warwickshire put them firmly in their place.

Not surprisingly, in such disheartening circumstances, the young players seem to have gone backwards rather than forwards. They lost two more experienced men when Bill Athey and Neil Lenham announced their retirements, and obviously came to Southampton devoid of confidence.

own youngsters, White and Whitaker, put their efforts in perspective with an unbroken third-wicket stand of 114.

"It hurts, it really hurts," Marlar said, but he is doing his best to do something about it. He has already offered Shane Warne a six-figure package that includes the captaincy and he is lobbying hard against the introduction of a two division championship that he believes will be the death knell for clubs like his.

In the meantime, he added with considerable understatement: "I don't think any county is more alert to the possibility of strengthening their squad."

CRICKET: YOUNG ENGLAND SEAM BOWLER WILL HAVE OPERATION FOR RECURRING SHOULDER PROBLEM

Untimely injury hits Cowan before tour

By Simon Wilde

CARDIFF (first day of four; Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan have scored 307 for seven wickets against Essex

GLAMORGAN, needing a victory to retain realistic ambitions of winning the championship, made an encouraging start to their final home game yesterday. They were granted first use of a pitch that may wear rapidly, spent the day battling reasonably well on it, and saw their opponents reduced to ten men when Ashley Cowan, the Essex new-ball bowler, was stricken with a shoulder injury — only 24 hours after the 22-year-old's unexpected selection for England's winter tour of the Caribbean.

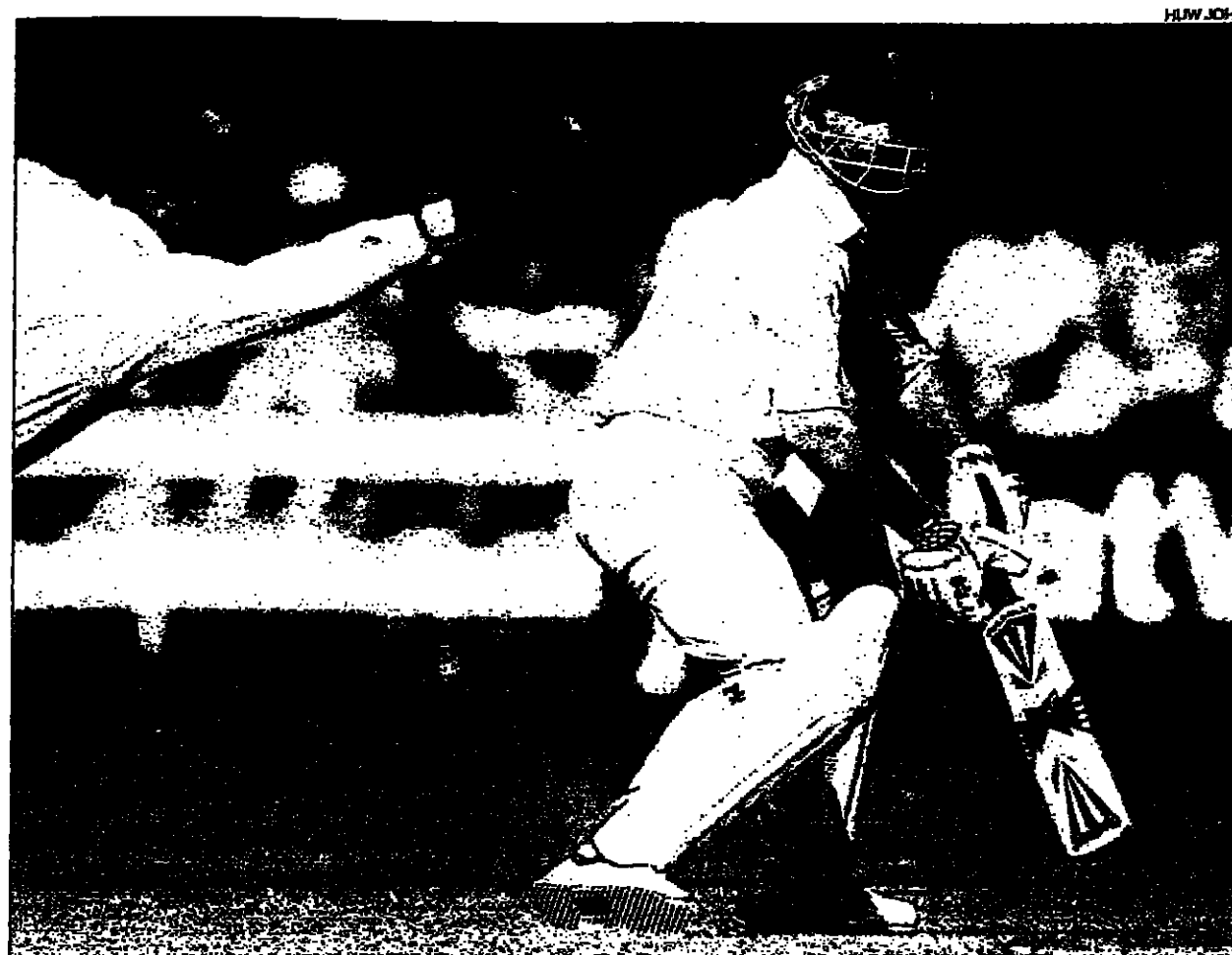
Cowan left the field shortly before lunch, clutching his upper right arm. He had just returned for a second spell, bowling one over from which Morris disdainfully struck four boundaries. Cowan was clearly angry at his treatment by Morris and frustrated at the recurrence of soreness that emerged seven weeks ago. He felt the first twinges early in his opening four-over spell and found that the pain had not disappeared in the intervening hour.

Cowan returned to field for the last hour, but he might be expected to play only a minor part in the rest of the game, and Essex's season. As already planned, he will undergo an exploratory operation in the next few weeks, but he expects the trouble to be cured by a lengthy rest before England leave for the West Indies in January.

"The specialist says it is only stress-related," he said. "Rest should put it right and there will be no problem for the winter. The selectors know about the situation."

There is, though, an unhappy tradition of England fast bowlers breaking down before tours: Dominic Cork did so last year and Richard Johnson the year before that.

Cowan's state of health apart, the most interesting topic of debate surrounded the extraordinary state of the Sophia Gardens square, which spent most of last week under water, obliging the ground staff to scrape away virtually all the grass to enable it to dry out. It now resembles a patch of baked mud — baked all the harder by a day of hot sun yesterday. Hardly surprising, towards the end it offered pronounced, if slow, turn.



Maynard glides the ball to the boundary past the outstretched hand of Barri Hyam, the Essex wicketkeeper

It was, thus, important for Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, to break his long sequence of lost tosses. Iliot struck an important early blow when he had James, looking to work the ball through mid-wicket, caught at short leg, the fifth successive score under 30 for the country's leading run-scorer.

Essex were kept waiting until mid-afternoon for their next success. Dale, having contributed 49 to a partnership of 138, played over a ball

of full length from the persevering Iliot. In the left-armed's next over, Morris, falling away to the off-side, was leg-before short of his 52nd century for Glamorgan.

By this time, Prichard, the Essex captain, was already experimenting with his spin attack. Such, Grayson and Stuart Law, purveying his leg-breaks with aplomb, delivered 60 overs at a run-rate of less than three.

It was not until after tea that the ball began to misbehave

significantly, by which time Maynard and Cottee, both set on sweeping and pulling seemingly regardless of the risks, had put on an invaluable 127. Maynard's demise signalled the start of a 15-over period in which four wickets fell, leaving Glamorgan to reappraise their day's work.

If Maynard, who made 71, was guilty of carelessness — he drove the simplest of return catches to Danny Law shortly after being put down at mid-wicket — the other casualties

were less culpable. The balls that accounted for Cottee and Shaw stopped, while Croft was beaten by sharp turn. He will have noted that with interest.

Essex may not have as much to play for as Glamorgan, but they are in pursuit of prize-money and fielding their strongest available side. Jonathan Powell, the apprentice off-spinner chosen for England A's forthcoming winter tour, was assigned to second XI duty at Chelmsford.

DeFreitas made to suffer

By Richard Hobson

WORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 400 for four wickets against Derbyshire

WHERE Derbyshire are concerned, it is always dangerous to assume that things can only get better. Yesterday, however, Philip DeFreitas was entitled to think that his season had reached its nadir.

The low point occurred shortly before tea in this county championship match yesterday, after DeFreitas had switched from seam to spin. Two Worcestershire batsmen were closing in on hundreds.

At this point, Tom Moody drove loosely towards mid-off, where Devon Malcolm advanced to attempt to take the catch. Deciding that the chance would fall short, he checked his stride and missed it entirely. The ball followed a familiar route to the advertising boards.

To restrict his frustration to a stifled growl represented a momentary restraint on the part of DeFreitas. Yet the episode was typical of the misfortune to have befallen him since he accepted the captaincy after the sudden return to Australia of Dean Jones.

DeFreitas paid a stiff price for poor results when he was told that he would not be considered for the position next season. He will continue to supervise affairs for the remainder of the present campaign even though Dominic Cork, who will lead the side next year, is playing here.

DeFreitas has not always been deserving of sympathy, but he has been shabbily treated over the past week or so. The club remains in turmoil and Stewart Edwards, the general manager, became the latest departure yesterday. All is sweetness and light by comparison at Worcester, where he will formally announce today the appointment of Bill Athey, the former England batsman, to succeed David Houghton as coach. Moody has been performing that role since Houghton departed for his new challenge with the Zimbabwe national side and his batting yesterday was that of a liberated talent.

He completed his second first-class hundred of the season from 133 deliveries with a six and 17 fours, only to chop the next ball from Cassar on to his wicket.

Weston, the blossoming left-hander, batted through the day, surviving chances to Clarke, at slip, on 96, and to Krikken four runs later. Otherwise, his patience suggested that he has learnt wisely from watching Tim Curtis from the non-striker's end for much of his career. He passed 1,000 runs for the county on the way to his fourth century after nearly five hours and resumes today on 145.

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LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Middlesex have scored 283 for five wickets against Nottinghamshire

JASON POOLEY'S highest score of the season, a half-century from Mark Ramprakash and notable, if minor, contributions by Jacques Kallis and Mike Gatting enabled Middlesex to reach a healthy, but by no means overwhelming, first-day score. Nottinghamshire persevered in the field at a calm, sunlit Lord's and, for the aficionado, here was county cricket near its best.

For the most part, there was sensible, steady batting on a good pitch, against bowling lacking much contrast, although accurate enough to prevent the Middlesex batsmen from galloping away with things. Not that they did not try. There was no end of scampering between wickets,

some of it of the highly dangerous, yes-no-wait variety.

That Ramprakash was the only victim was something of a surprise. He had hit ten fours in reaching his half-century when he went for an unlikely single, was sent back by Pooley and failed to beat Johnson's direct hit from backward square leg.

Ramprakash and Pooley had added 118 in 32 overs. Pooley went on in measured style towards his first century since August last year, but on 98, he, too, had a rush of blood.

He had narrowly escaped in the eighties when he advanced towards Bates' off spin and Noon failed to gather a high, bouncing ball. In the last over before tea, looking to stay with a century under his belt, he advanced again, lifted his head and was stumped by yards.

Until then, this had been

Pooley the circumspect, Pooley the mature, seeking his runs where they could be safely taken, as opposed to the dasher to whom we had become accustomed. His opening partnership of 66 with Kallis was dominated by the South African, who played three exquisite cover drives for four in one over from Evans before falling leg-before to Tolley.

Pooley played some fine strokes during a stay of 4½ hours, holding one end firm until those late errors of judgment. With Gatting batting for nearly two hours for his 33, determined accumulation rather than dashing strokeplay had become the order of the day.

Gatting, yoked by Franks, a promising fast-medium bowler, who will be even better once he stops bowling no balls. Yesterday, they cost him 24 of the 60 runs he conceded from 20 overs.

BOWLS

Haydon's last stand ends in triumph

COLIN HAYDON, a 63-year-old retired accountant, resolved to give up bowls for golf at the start of the summer, but nevertheless won the Cornhill Direct national over-55 singles championship at Bristol yesterday, defeating Colin Owen, of Culverden, Tunbridge Wells, 21-14 in the final (David Rhys Jones writes).

"I had already entered the competition, so I decided to go ahead and have my money's worth," Haydon said. "I turned up for the quarter-finals hoping to have a couple of enjoyable days, and now look what's happened."

The Swindon, Westcot player had tipped into the final after starting defeat in the face at 15-20. Scoring four successive singles, followed by a double, he pipped Lew Whitehouse, from Droitwich Vines Park, 21-20.

In the final, Haydon opened with a treble and held the lead throughout, but said that the green had proved too difficult to produce a fitting final. "It was two yards faster than the other," he said. "The really good bowling came in the semi-finals, where the rinks were running the other way."

It has been a good year for the Westcot club, four of whose members won the national fours championship, at Worthing, last month.

Arthur Peacock and Luke Went, of Paxman's, Colchester, won the pairs championship after cruising to an easy 28-8 victory over Michael Truran and Ian Gooding, of St Francis, Haywards Heath, who conceded defeat with three ends left to play.

RUGBY UNION: DWYER DECIDES TO GIVE HAMILTON CHANCE AT SCRUM HALF IN HEINEKEN CUP TIE

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AUSTIN HEALEY, whose exploits with Leicester and England last season earned him a place on the British Isles tour of South Africa during the summer, will start among the replacements when Leicester play Leinster in the second round of the Heineken Cup in Dublin tomorrow. The scrum-half place goes to Jamie Hamilton, who

returned to the club from London Scottish this season.

Hamilton's form in pre-season matches was outstanding, though Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, balked at the suggestion that Healey had been dropped. "I'm not unhappy with Austin," Dwyer said, "but we need to give various guys a game."

Healey is likely to be named today in a preliminary England training squad, even though there is no team

management in place. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will announce about 50 players, who will be curious to know who will put them through their paces next Wednesday.

The RFU hopes that, by the weekend, it will have the necessary contractual guarantees to ensure that its preferred team of Roger Utley, Clive Woodward and, in all probability, Rob Smith, from Wasps, can formulate plans for the international season.

The Scotland selectors have nominated 61 players to train this month, largely ignoring form. Only six of the Glasgow XV that beat Ulster in the Heineken Cup on Monday are included while there are 15 from Edinburgh, who finished bottom of the district championship last season.

One national union has clarified its coach. Rod MacQueen has been given a two-year contract by the Australian Rugby Union.

Leicester leave out Healey for Leinster clash

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FOR THE RECORD

<p>BASEBALL</p> <p>NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 5 Chicago Cubs 2; Montreal 5 Pittsburgh 4 (10th); New York Mets 1 Philadelphia 4 (10th); Houston 7 Los Angeles 3; Atlanta 6 San Diego 7 Florida 1 (11th); San Francisco 3 St Louis 5.</p> <p>BOWLS: Bristol: Cornhill Direct English over-55 championship: Stephen Cusack (Bristol) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13; C. Haydon (Swindon Westcot) 21-13.</p> <p>BROADCASTS: Open tournament: St. Albans: 1. J. Williams; 2. J. Williams; 3. J. Williams; 4. J. Williams; 5. J. Williams; 6. J. Williams; 7. J. Williams; 8. J. Williams; 9. J. Williams; 10. J. Williams; 11. J. Williams; 12. J. Williams; 13. J. Williams; 14. J. Williams; 15. J. Williams; 16. J. Williams; 17. J. Williams; 18. J. Williams; 19. J. 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TENNIS: BOURNEMOUTH BASKS IN AFTERGLOW OF BRITON'S GRAND-SLAM ACHIEVEMENT

Rusedski coasts past Martin to complete welcome-home party

By ALIX RAMSAY

IN THE 48 hours between stepping off Concorde and setting foot on the centre court at the West Hants club in Bournemouth, Greg Rusedski's feet have hardly touched the ground. It was not the best preparation for a tough first-round match on clay, but it hardly mattered as Rusedski came through 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 against Alberto Martin in the Samsung Open yesterday.

As soon as he landed in London, he went to Surrey to see the parents of his girlfriend, Lucy Connor, getting to bed in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Then it was back to his London flat to unpack after seven weeks on the road. A couple of hours sorting through the mail and listening to a tape full of congratulations on the answerphone and he was back in the car heading for the South Coast and the practice courts.

"That was a bit discouraging at first, getting used to the clay again," he said. What was worse was trying to ignore jet lag and get one more practice session in before his first match. "I set three different alarms and didn't hear one of them," he said.

In the event, his match was delayed by 15 minutes when the computer issuing tickets wilted under the pressure as the crowds flooded in to see the British No 1. As someone said, it was programmed perfectly well to deal with the usual interest in British tennis, but could not handle the enthusiasm generated by that most unusual of creatures, a British grand-slam tournament finalist.

Rusedski did not disappoint the 2,700 who eventually got in. Greeted with a standing ovation, he was soon into his stride, warming up his service and wrapping up the first set with his sixth ace, at which point a well-meaning lady with a Zimmer frame appeared at Rusedski's elbow to give him a birthday card and have a bit of a chat, much to the surprise of the security guards. Being the best thing to happen to British tennis carries with it a whole new set of problems.

Martin, however, posed a more pressing problem, and, although he was broken in the first game of the second set, he broke straight back, making the most of a couple of tired errors by Rusedski. He man-



Rusedski shows no signs of jet lag as he hits a powerful return against Martin during his first-round victory yesterday

aged it again eight games later to win the second set and suddenly the great welcome-home party was going a little flat.

However, with the crowd behind him every step of the way, Rusedski roused himself and began to show Martin just who it was that the crowd had come to see. With his service now impregnable and his ground strokes looking more and more secure, Rusedski was eventually through to a second-round appointment

with Richard Fromberg, of Australia.

With a chorus of *Happy Birthday* from the crowd — Rusedski turned 24 on Saturday — and a cake presented by the Lawn Tennis Association, Rusedski was adopted as Bournemouth's favourite son.

Despite a sore throat, a cold and a general feeling of exhaustion, he would not have missed it for the world.

"The crowd really helped me today," he said. "It was brilliant to have that standing

ovation and for them to sing *Happy Birthday*. I was always going to play here because we get so few tournaments in Britain. I wanted to play. I have been away too long and it's just great to be home."

As for the hangover from New York, that has not set in yet. "I really haven't had that much time to think about getting to the final of the US Open yet, or to enjoy it as much as I would have liked," he said. "But I'm pleased with the way I could get myself up

for today and I think I handled it reasonably well."

Unfortunately, the other British players were unable to follow in Rusedski's footsteps as they all lost their second-round matches. Chris Wilkinson was the first to go, losing to the No 2 seed, Felix Mantilla, 6-3, 6-2, closely followed by Danny Sapsford, who went out to Jacobo Diaz 6-3, 6-1, and Miles MacLagan, who lost 6-1, 3-6, 7-5 to Marcos Ondruska.

Results, page 45

EQUESTRIANISM: EXPERIENCE IS KEY FACTOR IN BID TO RETAIN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

King leads quest to strike gold at Burghley

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Great Britain three-day event team, led by Mary King, on Star Appeal, will attempt to wipe out the memory of its disappointing performance at the Olympic Games last year when it competes at the Burghley Pedigree Chum European Open Championships, which start today at Burghley House, Stamford.

The team, announced yesterday after what Giles Rowell, the chairman of the selectors, said was "a very

difficult choice", consists of three experienced team riders in King, William Fox-Pitt, with Cosmopolitan, and Ian Stark, on Arakai. The fourth member is the former Olympic dressage rider Christopher Bartle, who, at 45, is making his debut in the team. Bartle earned his place after consistent performances with Word Perfect, a nine-year-old, most recently at the Scottish championships last month, which they won.

As the defending European and world champions, Britain

will start as one of the favourites. They have a formidable record to uphold. Since the European championships began in 1953, Britain has won the gold medal 14 times. The last occasion, in Italy two years ago, was the first open European championships, when the powerful New Zealand team were relegated to the silver medal position.

The competition this week, which is the last time that the championships will be open, is set to be even more intense. Australia and United States, winners of the gold and silver medals at the Atlanta Olympics, join New Zealand and Britain as the four main protagonists out of the 13 teams competing. Britain, as the host nation, also has eight additional riders.

The United States side, trained by Mark Phillips — who has had to step down as the course designer — includes David O'Connor, with Custom Made, who won Badminton this year, and Bruce Davidson, a dual world champion, with Eagle Lion, his 1995 Badminton winner.

Australia are led by Andrew Hoy and Darren Powers, members of their 1996 Olympic gold medal-winning team. New Zealand are so spoilt for choice that they can afford to drop Vaughn Jeffries and Bounce, the world champions. Despite this opposition, Rowell is still optimistic that Britain can win. "It's more of a world championship than a European — but our chances



King, left, and Fox-Pitt were victorious two years ago



are very strong," he said yesterday. Being on home ground should certainly help. Britain has won on four out of the five occasions that Burghley has hosted these championships.

King, who gained the individual bronze medal as well as the team gold two years ago — despite being five months pregnant — is Britain's best hope for individual honours. Although her previous successes — and the 1994 world championship team gold — all came on her former top horse, King William, she has an enviable successor in Star Appeal. The 12-year-old gelding won at Puxestown in 1995. Burghley last year and was runner-up at Badminton in May.

Fox-Pitt, a key member of the 1995 gold medal-winning team, gained his place after an assured performance at Bad-

minton this year on Cosmopolitan, where he was third. Stark, 43, has been a member of the team since 1984 and won European team gold medals at Burghley in 1985 and 1989, but his nine-year-old horse Arakai, on which he was fourteenth at Badminton, is the least experienced.

Although the cross-country course on Sunday is rated as a three-star course, compared with Burghley's usual four stars, the lower rating refers to the shorter distances involved, not to the size of the fences. It will take riders only as far as fence three, The Leaf Pit — a horrifying leap over a log at the top of a steep slope, followed by a narrow tree stump — for riders to realise that Michael Tucker, the designer, has made few concessions with the fences. BRITISH TEAM ORDER: Star Appeal (M King); Arakai (I Stark); Word Perfect II (C Bartle); Cosmopolitan (W Fox-Pitt).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

BYWONER

(b) A poor tenant farmer who lives on the farm of another man to whom he renders certain services (with or without payment in produce or money) being allowed to carry on some farming on his own account. "Farmers lived on bilting and brak water, and their bywoners are dead donkeys."

MANGE TOUT

(b) A variety of pea producing pods which are eaten with the seeds they contain. "To be asked with impious briskness when to sow mange tout — divide artichokes or prune plums."

BOTT HAMMER

(b) A wooden hammer to break the stalks of flax. *Dictionary of Trade*: "A bott hammer is a wooden block with a long bent helve or handle, and having channels or fluting under its face, used to break flax."

BRACKER

(a) A government inspector or sorter of goods in the Baltic. "The year of its growth is stamped on the barrel by sworn inspectors (brackers). When a shipment of tallow is made, the agent is furnished by the selector (bracker) with a sample from each cask."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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A deadly miracle weapon

TELEVISION CHOICE

Films of Fire: The Ultimate Bullet
Channel 4, 9.00pm

More than six years on, the Gulf War continues to provoke recriminations. Carol Picou served in the United States Army Medical Service during the conflict and is now seriously ill. She is convinced that the culprit is a so-called miracle weapon used in the Gulf for the first time. It is an artillery shell made from depleted uranium (DU), a highly toxic radioactive ore. The attraction of DU for weaponry is that it is heavy and sharp enough to pierce the steel of a tank. With her husband, Tony, Picou returns to the battlefield and discovers that Iraqi civilians, too, have been suffering from cancerous after-effects consistent with a high level of radiation. In the film the US Army admits that troops were exposed to risk. But Picou's campaign for DU to be banned until its effects are properly understood goes on.

Casualty
BBC1, 9.30pm

Like a football club facing a new season, *Casualty* has strengthened its squad with a raft of fresh signings. Some, such as Rebecca Lacey's junior doctor and Peter Guinness's general manager, seem destined to go straight into the first team. But plenty of familiar faces remain from the old lineup, headed by the eternal Charlie (Derek Thompson), and the plot format is reassuringly unchanged. As soon as we clap eyes on the young couple with their baby, or the elderly parents about to visit offspring in Australia, we know that before long some, or all, of them will end up in emergency. *Ginnie Hole*, a regular *Casualty* writer, gets the series off to a hectic start with a 75-minute episode.

Horizon: Crater of Death
BBC2, 9.25pm

Sixty-five million years ago, seven-tenths of all life vanished. This you have to admit, is an arresting opening gambit and, even if the film does try to dress up as new something that has long been established, it will be hard to switch off. What happened so long ago is that something very big came out of the sky and caused a crater nearly 200km wide and 20km deep. The effect was to set off a series of climate changes which extinguished



Carol Picou returns to Iraq (Channel 4)

much of existing life. Prominent among this was the dinosaur population which died out gradually. To stand the theory up it was first necessary to find the crater. It was eventually located in 1991, buried beneath the coastline of Mexico. Reconstructing the blast, which set the whole world aflame, is a comparatively simple matter of playing around with computer graphics. Peter Waymark

Scotland Decides
BBC1, 11.20pm; CA, 12.35am

Not that anybody can actually preview the result of the vote on devolution, but it is fair to say that there will not be many more important programmes on television this side of the new millennium. Scots must decide whether they want a national assembly and whether it should have the power to levy taxes. The big question for the rest of us is whether the apathetic or complacent among the Scottish population will, together with the nay-saying Conservatives, outweigh the Labour, Scottish Nationalist and Liberal Democrat enthusiasts for a "yes" vote. For the BBC, Kirsty Wark and Anne Mackenzie will analyse the returns — the first are due before midnight — and, bless him, Peter Snow will be on hand with computer graphics, including a virtual reality Scottish parliament. Sheena McDonald turns out for Channel 4, which will be presenting the news as part of a live discussion. Tony Patrick

RADIO CHOICE

Referendum Special
Radio 5 Live, 10.00pm

The BBC really needs to retreat for one of its famed weekends in the country to decide how it is going to cover elections on radio. The May landslide was shared between 5 Live and Radio 4, which naturally brought complaints that one network would have sufficed. Today's Scottish referendum gets a separate results programme on each network, with Radio 4 starting at 11pm, an hour later than 5 Live. There will also be a break on Radio 4 for the midnight news. None of which alters the fact that two programmes (each lasting until 5am), on the same election on two networks, is not a very happy use of resources. The presenters tonight are James Cox for Radio 4 and Eddie Mair for 5 Live.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevn Greear 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mary Ann Hobbs 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Tracey Gold 8.45pm Peel 10.30 Charlie Clive 1.00am Cive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.00am Johnnie Walker 1.00pm David Allen's Country Club 3.00pm Paul Jones 5.00p Dererica Williams 9.30 The News 10.00pm The Day with Maryn Lewis 10.30 Richard Armitage 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Julian Worchester Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Ryder Cup Years Tony Adamson looks at the 70-year history of the golfing event 8.00 David Gower's Cricket Weekly Includes a look back at the WestVista final 9.00 Inside Edge 10.00 Referendum Special. See Choice 3.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 7.00 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00 Alan Russett 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Prokofiev (Suite: Lieutenant Kije); Bruckner (Psalms 112); Albinoni (Sonata in G minor, Op 4 No 5); Bach, transcribed (Toccata and Fugue in G minor); Chopin (Nocturne); Debussy (Nocturne); 9.00 Morning Collection, with Catherine Young. Includes: G.P.S. Bach (Symphony in G); Beethoven (Choral Fantasia); Debussy (Nocturne); 10.00 Musical Encounters. Presented by Chris de Souza. Includes: Bach, arr. Edgar (Fantasia and Fugue in G minor); Schostakovich (Prelude in E flat minor, Op 16 No 4); Saint-Saëns (Havaraire); Strauss (Der Brautritt, Op 47 No 3); Mendelssohn, ed. Menzies (Violin Sonata in F); 12.00 News; 1.00pm Proms Composer of the Week: Verdi. Rodney Milnes, talks to the baritone Thomas Harrison about Mozart's Così Fan Tutte. 2.00 BBC Proms 97. Another chance to hear Sunday's concert. Silg Andersen, tenor, Kurt Nikkanen, violin, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under Neeme Järvi. Brahms (Prelude); Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 1); Schubert (Symphony No 5) (1); 4.00 Gaspard Cassado, Robert Cohen, cello, Elizabeth

Burley, piano, present a programme to celebrate the birth of Gaspard Cassado.

5.00 Musical Encounters, with Tommy Pearson (1) 5.15 In Tune, with Humphrey Carpenter 7.30 BBC Proms 97. See Choice. City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. Shostakovich (Violin Concerto No 1); 8.10 Maxim Vengerov. Robert Cowan profiles the violinist. 8.30 Concert Part two. Mahler (Symphony No 5) 10.05 Lost in London. Andrew Grant discusses the life of musical venues which have long since disappeared from the London landscape. Tonight he recalls Hickford's Room where concerts began in 1897 and seven years later the eight-year-old Mozart staggered audiences there with his keyboard skills (4/5) (1) 10.25 A Handel! Mozart (Piano Sonata in D) 10.45 A Handel! Mozart. The Life and Music of Memphis Minnie. An appreciation by Russell Davies

11.30 Proms composer of the Week: Schubert (1) 12.30am Jazz News. Digby Fairweather talks to the pianist Ray Bryant

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.45 Personal History, by Katherine Grenville 9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze, with Michael Buerk and guests David Cook, Janet Daley, Geoffrey Robertson, QC, and David Starkey 10.00 News 10.05 First Summer. A gardening drama by David Sheehy. With Gerald McDermott and Gillian Baver (4/5) 10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.01 News 12.05 News, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Alex Brodie 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Thursday Mozart's Così Fan Tutte. Languages, by Harward Bains 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Dore Braham 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reviews Anthony Shier's performance in *Ono de Bergara* for the Royal Shakespeare Company 4.45 Short Story: Harvest of Horrors, by E. Nesbit 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Control Group Six. The third of a four-part comedy drama written by and starring Richard Bean, with Andrew Clifford, Clive Coleman and Colin Swain

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Seabed Odyssey. Julian Hector uses state-of-the-art underwater recording equipment to explore the seabed off the Cornish coast

8.00 Reading Aloud. The novelist Tim Parks asks why the Italians bury their dead vertically (1) 8.20 Chronicle of a Catastrophe Foretold. The writer David Reiff explores why a multi-national force was sent into Albania after the collapse of the pyramid schemes

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.50 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: To the Lighthouse (9/10) (1) 11.00 Scotland Decides. James Cox follows the outcome of today's referendum on Scottish devolution

12.00 News 12.20am Scotland Decides. James Cox continues coverage of today's referendum

3.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-99.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693. 030. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1058, 1088. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



THE CURTAIN FALLS.

(AND IT BRINGS THE HOUSE DOWN.)

THE PROMS SEPTEMBER 11-12, 1997. THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS. AND LIKE EVERY PROM BEFORE, IT'S LIVE ON THREE. SO FOR A REALLY WATNY EXPERIENCE, STAY PUT WHERE YOU ARE.

3
90-93

REVIEW



The Nazis — A Warning from History (BBC2) was the first of a six-part series that shows how close the world was from being spared the evil of Hitler, had there not been a few million unpredictable Germans willing to catapult him into power. Just as the House of Windsor didn't foresee the impact of Diana, the Princess of Wales's death, few people in 1970s


The Nazis were a joke. But a joke that was taken seriously by a large number of people. The Nazis were a joke. But a joke that was taken seriously by a large number of people. The Nazis were a joke. But a joke that was taken seriously by a large number of people.

That is because some people never seem to learn their lesson, including former Nazis, judges, and Fridolin von Spaun, a Nazi who met Hitler in the early 1930s. "Suddenly," von Spaun told us, "I noticed Hitler's eyes resting upon me. That was one of the most curious moments of my life. The long gaze which he had given me convinced me completely that he was a man of honourable intentions. I can only say that I am glad that I saw Hitler's most beautiful side. Surely there must have been a dark side, but I do not believe that must have been." — But I saw his wonderful side. And nobody can take that away from me. "Who

Bob— with that trademark guile of his that suggests he is struggling to do something unpleasant without offending— the hostess gave us a tour of Pinewood Studios in *One Foot In The Past* (BBC). Believe it or not, Monckhouse was movie star— matinee idol, even at Pinewood in the late 1950s. But he is an older, more reflective Bob Monckhouse that returns there today, a man who is looking for some "meaning to existence" and "to find in myself some resonance with a human being and to something that flutters and flutters to the side. No! That I want to be remembered. I really don't."

Well, that's lucky!

CHANNEL 5

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are pictures: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 Mhz
- 00am 5 News Early (7491140)**
00 Wishbone (5655121)
00 HavaKazooz (7910483)
00 WideWorld (8360904)
00 Espresso (7940985)
00 Exclusive (f) (8114140)
00 Instant Gardens (f) (4960148)
00 Lezza (1568546)
00 Give 5 (89880362)
00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (4760940)
00pm Family Affairs (f) (9060140)
00 5 News Update (85134362)
00 Sunset Beach (T) (8743614)
00 5's Company (8714275)
00 God Bless the Child (1987) with Mare Winningham, Grace Johnston and Dorian Harswood. A woman and her child find themselves temporarily – they think – homeless, until they embark on a night-marish odyssey. Directed by Larry Elikann (8897091)
00 Give 5 (11378701)
00 Move on Up (9293817)
00 100 Per Cent (9283430)
00 Family Affairs (T) (9274782)
00 Exclusive (8256053)
00 Dragon's Tale Examines the Japanese red-crowned crane, which lives on a peat marsh on the island of Hokkaido (T) (9201966)
00 Give 5 Reports on the homeless (6716614)
00 The Car Show Tristram Payne tests-drive the Daihatsu Move (8265701)
00 5 News (T) (8251508)
- 
- Jodie Foster, Richard Gere (9.00pm)**
00 Sommersby (1992) with Richard Gere, Jodie Foster and Bill Pullman. A soldier returns from the American Civil War but his wife believes he is an imposter – because he is gentle and caring, not the mean-spirited man she married. Directed by John Amiel (T) (6128940)
00 The Jack Docherty Show (1660988)
00 Melrose Place Michael and Scott discuss medical specialities (T) (4061904)
00am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine featuring soccer action from the Brazilian National League (79458096)
00 The Streets of San Francisco (T) (6796366)
00 100 Per Cent (f) (798522)

(32965) see (5397512) 7.00 Biography: James

- [illegible]



GOLF 41

O'Meara's call for Ryder Cup payments earns mixed response

SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1997

CRICKET 44-45

Yorkshire suffer fluctuating fortunes on and off pitch



Albania gain unexpected group nine victory on neutral territory

Northern Ireland hit depths

Albania 1
Northern Ireland 0

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NORTHERN Ireland's disappointing World Cup campaign continued as Albania swept Bryan Hamilton's men aside in Zurich yesterday and left them with a hangover that could spill over into the European championship.

The defeat by Germany last month closed the door to France 1998, but Hamilton was hoping his team would finish fourth in group nine to improve their seeding for the Euro 2000 qualifying campaign that starts next season.

A 69th-minute goal by Altin Haxhi, who plays for Petros in Greece, means that Northern Ireland will probably have to win in Portugal next month to have a chance of overhauling Armenia for fourth place.

It was Albania's first win over Northern Ireland in eight

GROUP NINE

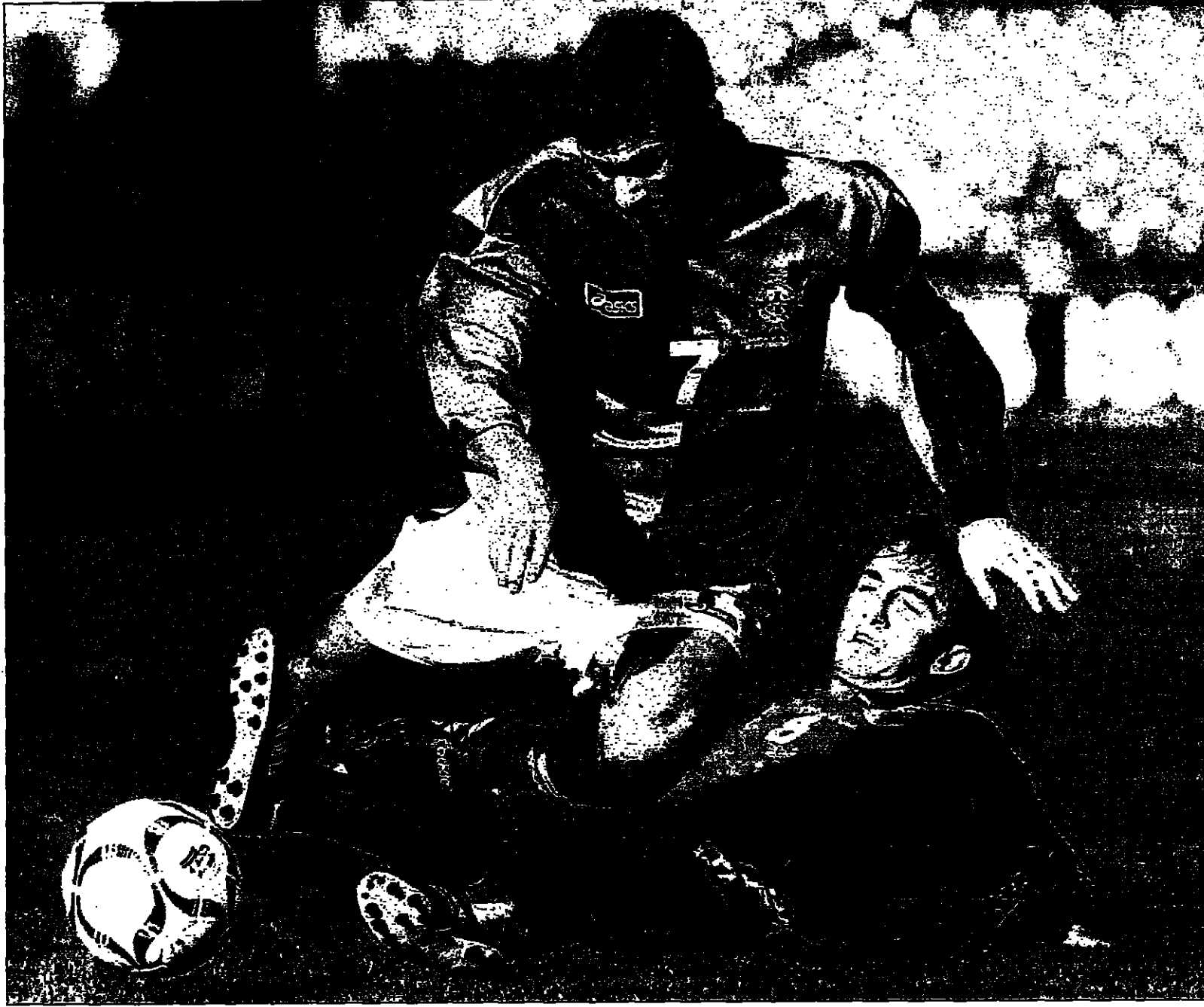
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	9	5	2	2	8	6	17
Germany	8	4	4	0	15	8	16
Portugal	8	1	1	1	4	16	9
Armenia	8	1	5	2	8	11	9
Belarus	8	1	1	1	6	9	5
Albania	9	1	1	7	4	18	4

*not including last night's match

attempts and their first of the qualifying campaign, but it was fully deserved. Forced to play in neutral Switzerland because of continued civil unrest at home, they responded to the noise of the 2,600 supporters, part of a substantial Albanian community in Zurich, who roared them on to total commitment in the Hardturm Stadium.

Albania responded to the noise immediately, with Igli Tare muscling his way past Pat McGibbon after 30 seconds, only to fire wildly over. Then Bledar Kola, the scorer of two penalties against Germany in April, cut inside to hit a low drive from 20 yards that beat Tommy Wright but went just wide.

Northern Ireland should have taken the lead when Iain Dowie flicked on Steve Lomas's corner only for Keith Gillespie to pull his effort wide from ten yards.



Gillespie is tackled by Haxhi, the Albania goalscorer, during Northern Ireland's embarrassing World Cup defeat in Zurich yesterday

It was a nervous start by Northern Ireland but that was not surprising as injuries and suspension forced Hamilton to make six changes to the side that lost to Germany last month.

Their frustration showed when James Quinn was booked for a 21st-minute lunge at Arjan Peço and McGibbon followed suit six minutes later

for tripping Tare. Dowie lifted spirits momentarily by heading another long throw by Lomas against the post but the effort was ruled out as Roger Philpott, the referee, adjudged that Dowie had fouled Arjan Xhumba. A fine save from Wright, denying Tare to his right, denied Lomas as play switched to the other end.

Northern Ireland should have gone ahead on the stroke of half-time, when Lomas, captaining the side for the first time, failed to keep a close-range header down.

Hamilton made a positive switch at the break, bringing

on Philip Mulryne, of Manchester United, to support Dowie and Quinn up front in place of Keith Rowland. It was Mulryne's third appearance but Northern Ireland were soon on the back foot again as Wright twice saved well from Kola.

Gillespie responded by powering down the right and crossing dangerously, only for the Albania goalkeeper, Foto Strakosha, to beat the leaping Lomas to the ball with a flying punch.

Albania came again when Rudi Vata, the former Celtic player, carried the ball from

defence and released Alban Bushaj with a fine pass, only for the midfielder player to scoop his shot over.

Gillespie, always a threat down the right, outstripped his marker again and, when his cross was cleared, Kevin Horlock sent a half-volley just over the bar from 18 yards.

Albania went ahead after 69 minutes when Colin Hill's clearance fell to Haxhi 20 yards out and his precise shot beat Wright and bounced into the net off the goalkeeper's left-hand post.

Albania could have added to their lead as Northern Ireland

piled forward in search of an equaliser. Horlock forced a fine save from Strakosha with a long-range shot but, at the other end, Wright saved twice and Hill's timely tackle thwarted another Albania attack.

ALBANIA: Strakosha — Tola, Shkruhi, Xhumba, Vata, Fataj, Peço (sub: Haxhi, 69min), Haxhi (sub: Gela, 65), Kola, Bushaj, Tare.
NORTHERN IRELAND: T. Wright (Manchester City), C. Hill (Middlesbrough), D. Gillespie (St. Johnstone), P. McGibbon (Wigan Athletic), K. Gillespie (Newcastle United), K. Rowland (West Ham United), sub: P. Mulryne, Manchester United, 46; K. Horlock (Manchester City), S. Lomas (West Ham United), N. Lennon (Leicester City), sub: D. Sommer, Ipswich Town, 63; J. Quinn (Blackpool), sub: G. MacKintosh, Stoke City, 78; I. Dowie (West Ham United).
Referee: R. Philpott (Luxembourg).

Italians fail to overcome Georgia

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND'S hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals as group winners were given a lift hours before the start of their match with Moldova last night when Georgia held Italy to a goalless draw in Tbilisi.

The Italians, overly defensive in the first-half and unable to finish some attacking play in the second, moved two points clear of England at the top of group two before last night's match at Wembley.

Georgia, already out of contention for the 1998 finals in France, put the Italians under pressure with Temur Ketsubaja, the Newcastle United player, orchestrating their best moves. In the second half, Cesare Maldini introduced Roberto Baggio, Pierluigi Casiraghi and Filippo Inzaghi to pep up the attack but Nika Tognonidze, the Georgia goalkeeper, made several good saves.

The draw left the Italians

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	7	5	0	1	11	7	15
England	8	5	0	1	11	7	15
Poland	8	2	1	3	7	9	7
Georgia	8	0	0	5	2	13	0
Moldova	8	0	0	5	2	13	0

*not including last night's match

unbeaten in seven qualifying matches and possibly needing to beat England in Rome on October 11 in the decisive match in the group.

Scotland's chances of winning group four look bleak after Austria beat Belarus 1-0 in Minsk yesterday, a goal from Heimo Pfeifenberger five minutes after half-time putting the Austrians top. Belarus now go to Vienna for the final match in the group with the Austrians needing to win again to qualify automatically for the finals.

Romania extended their perfect winning record in group eight to nine matches when they beat Iceland 4-0 in Bucharest. The Romanians, who have already qualified and have the best record in the European qualifying competition, scored through Hagi (twice), Petrescu and Gela.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	9	7	1	1	13	4	20
Scotland	9	6	2	1	13	3	20
Sweden	8	5	0	3	14	9	15
Latvia	8	3	1	4	10	11	10
Belarus	9	1	1	7	5	17	5
Estonia	9	1	1	7	4	15	4

REMAINING MATCHES: Yesterday: Sweden v Latvia. Oct 11: Austria v Belarus; Sweden v Estonia; Scotland v Latvia.

Belgian club to escape censure

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

UEFA will take no action against Anderlecht despite the club's former chairman admitting making a £20,000 payment to the referee of the 1984 Uefa Cup match against Nottingham Forest.

Frits Ahlstrom, a spokesman for the European governing body, said that Uefa had decided not to seek sanctions against the club because of a ten-year statute of limitations according to reports in Belgium.

The Anderlecht chairman, Roger Vaden Stock, admitted last week that his father, Constant, had made the Spanish referee, Guruceta Munu, "a loan" of a million francs (around £20,000) on the day after the second leg of the tie with Forest.

Anderlecht won the match 3-0 to go through 3-2 on aggregate but only after a Forest goal, which television replays showed to have been legitimate, was disallowed. Anderlecht lost the final to Tottenham Hotspur on penalty kicks.

"In my father's eyes, this is not bribery but something to help someone," Van Stock said. "He did not realise the consequences." He added that his father had been worried the referee would be biased against Anderlecht unless he agreed to the loan.

Diego Maradona said yesterday that he was ready to play for Boca Juniors in Sunday's Argentine League match against Newell's Old Boys after the lifting of a temporary drugs ban. "I want to play in every game," he said.

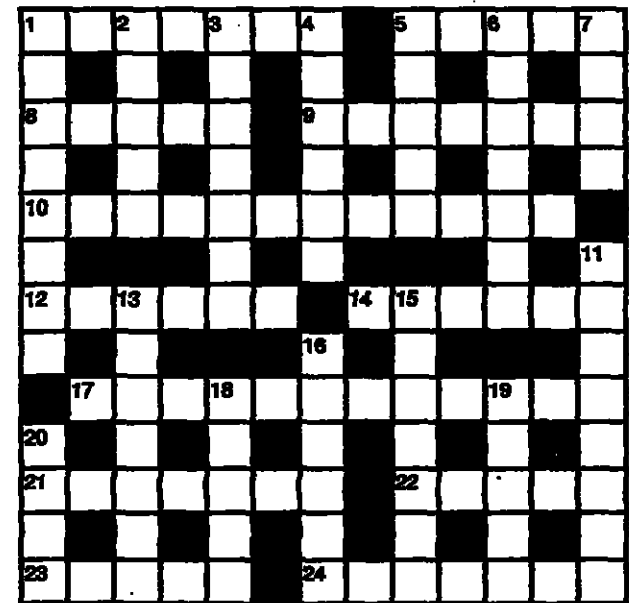
The 36-year-old former World Cup-winner was cleared to play again when a judge decided to make sure that the urine sample which provided the positive drugs test really came from Maradona.

The Argentine Football Association had no choice but to lift the temporary ban imposed last month after Maradona's lawyers filed an appeal with Judge Claudio Bonadio.

The move delayed any further disciplinary action against Maradona, who faces anything from a 15-month suspension to a lifetime ban if he is proved guilty of the third drug offence of his career.

He tested positive for an unspecified prohibited substance after an Argentine League match on August 24.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1196

- ACROSS
1. Walled queue of hair (7)
 5. Winged boy, love god (5)
 8. Course of journey (5)
 9. Kenneth —, *Wind in the Willows* author (7)
 10. Ability to be eloquent (4,2,3,3)
 12. Touchstone's girl (AYL): — Hepburn (6)
 14. Dog crossword compiler (6)
 17. Be ignored, wasted (2,2,3,5)
 21. Incise (7)
 22. (Bird) settle to sleep (5)
 23. A water-billy (5)
 24. Pig foot; type of trained horse (7)
- DOWN
1. S. Am. country, cap. Asunción (8)
 2. Surly; some Billy Goats (5)
 3. Excellent (slang): inspiring dread (7)
 4. Lungs as food (6)
 5. Desperately desire (5)
 6. Sir: Hamlet a *rogue* and — slave (7)
 7. Food regime (4)
 11. Hunting animal; teardrop (anag.) (8)
 13. Water shortage (7)
 15. Official trade veto (7)
 16. A menace (6)
 17. *Salley Gardens* poet (5)
 19. High up (5)
 20. Brontë pseudonym: one rung (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1195

ACROSS: 1 Humidity 5 Epic 9 Wendy 10 Karaoke 11 Eminent 12 Atlas 13 Different 18 Eaves 20 La Scala 22 Mention 23 Adept 24 Ties 25 Feckless

DOWN: 1 Hawser 2 Mankind 3 Doyle 4 Take the plunge 6 Prowl 7 Cheese 8 Urbane 14 Fossil 15 Trapeze 16 Penit 17 Pastos 19 Venue 21 Smack

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Charltons take Banks to task

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND'S World Cup-winning brothers, Jack and Sir Bobby Charlton, yesterday criticised Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, after he had been reported as saying that he did not believe the nation's football team could win the 1998 finals in France, and that other teams were "more proficient and skilful".

Jack Charlton, who went on to manage Ireland in the finals, said: "I think the Sports Minister can say what he wishes to say as long as it is common sense and in line with what people think. To come out with radical thoughts is well out of order."

"Of course we can win. We certainly have the players in England and their enthusiasm is second to none."

His brother said: "Tony Banks is always coming out with statements and sometimes he puts his foot in it. I am sure he can't possibly think we don't have a chance of winning after we did so well in Euro 96 and we had a good [Le Tournoi] competition in France."

England were to play Moldova in a World Cup group two qualifying match at Wembley. "The timing was nothing to do with me," he said. "This was an interview that was given in late July or early August. It's bad luck on my part but I was not actually responsible."

"I just like to say as I find and what I was trying to say was that it's a tough world. I think we are going to go a long



Banks "realistic"

way and we could win it. I also said that if anyone could do it that would be Glenn Hoddle, but all that seems to have been forgotten."

"I would remind people that the bookmakers have England as 14-1 outsiders to win the World Cup. We are eighth favourites."

Owen promotion is put on hold

By MATT DICKINSON

IT HAS not been a good fortnight for England's two outstanding teenagers. Rio Ferdinand and Michael Owen are regarded well beyond the confines of their respective clubs, West Ham United and Liverpool, as certain full internationals of the future, but disciplinary problems have suddenly put a brake on those ambitions.

Ferdinand's highly publicised drink-drive conviction cost him any chance of a full cap against Moldova at Wembley last night and, while Glenn Hoddle, the coach, allows him to carry on training with the senior squad, Hoddle will not have appreciated being dragged into yet another unsavoury episode by one of his miscreant players.

The teenage impetuosity of Owen has also been brought to the attention of Hoddle after the 17-year-old striker's dismissal for a bad during the 0-0 draw against Yugoslavia Under-18 in Rotherham on Tuesday night and, like Ferdinand, his rashness appears to have delayed international promotion.

At about the same time as Owen was receiving his marching orders for retaliation, Peter Taylor, the England Under-21 coach, was discussing the likelihood of calling him up for his first cap at that level after his side's 1-0 victory against Moldova. The England camp is awaiting confirmation from Uefa, the European governing body, but it is likely that Owen's suspension for at least one game will include the final Under-21 championship group, two qualifying matches against Italy next month.

It will be the first time that Owen's career has taken anything other than a giant leap forward, because his goals for Liverpool, in the absence of Robbie Fowler have fully merited his reputation as one of the best young forwards in Europe.

If that was the bad news for Taylor yesterday, there was more than ample compensation in the scoreline from Georgia as England's closest



Owen: dismissed

rivals, Italy, were beaten 2-0. That result means that the England Under-21s cannot be caught as group leaders and are now almost certain to qualify for the quarter-finals of the championship proper.

Taylor said: "Obviously, this puts us in a very good position. We have struggled for goals and Michael was a consideration, but we are waiting to look at videos of the incident and to hear from Uefa exactly what action will be taken and for which competitions any ban would count."

Brewed
beyond
the call of
duty.

CHARLES WELLS
BOMBARDIER
BITTER